

Christian Courier

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God has a claim on 'sun and fun' time

Many Christians 'think they deserve to do what they want' on vacation, says recreation prof

Irene Bom

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — When it comes to believers and time off, Glen Van Anel says he doesn't like a lot of what he sees around him.

"Many Christians have bought into the world's philosophy that we deserve to do what we want on vacations because we have 'done our thing,' just like the man in Luke 12 who sat back after he had built his barns. It's subtle and we don't like to admit it, but it's there," says the recreation professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Such questions are demanding answers as Reformed immigrants in Canada are increasing in both wealth and years, and hence in vacation time.

"In the early 1970s we were preoccupied with running our daily lives. Now we're much more affluent," says Baldwin Verstraete, a Toronto travel agent who has been booking holidays for over 20 years. He admits the recession has cut back on recent trips, but says Florida flights and Caribbean cruises were still popular this winter.



PHOTO: CC FILES

"Caribbean cruises were still popular this winter."

changing," he says, adding that Christians should see vacations as part of the Sabbath ordered

in Leviticus 23 and the release from bondage described in Deuteronomy 5. He says that

would make off-time a real 'holiday' — meaning 'holy day' — instead of a vacation — simply vacating from our usual duties.

"The Sabbath is not just one day in seven, but also a principle of the divine rhythm of rest and work," notes Van Anel. "And the purpose of the Sabbath is to break us free from what binds us in order to re-establish relationships with God, others and nature. What if we started our vacation plans by asking, 'What is my relationship with God like right now?'"

As John Byl, physical education professor at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont., notes, "Holidays are for daydreaming with God for a while."

By that yardstick, a vacation spent working around the house might be stewardship "but not build the relationships that holidays are meant for."

'Could never do again'

Ray Elgersma, Canadian head of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), says the idea of

holiday time as relationship time applies beyond the family. He claims Christians must work on relating to the locals in their vacation hot spots, as well. He took a 'sun and fun' holiday at a Florida resort in the 1970s and says he "could never do that again."

"To eat that kind of food when the others are poor — it was just too much," says Elgersma. "We live so independently here in North America, at the expense of the south. We're not living a reality."

The way out, he says, is not to stay home but to go south "in order to explore what interdependency means" — by asking questions and by staying in homes or modest hotels. Elgersma says he promotes such learning by informally taking several interested supporters along whenever he visits CRWRC sites in other countries.

One of the keys "is to wait for locals to invite you" — perhaps through a relief agency

See MYTH p.2...

Indian Parliament debates policy toward low-income Christians

Ajay Ghosh

NEW DELHI, India (NNI)—Members of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament are debating whether to extend government benefits to Christians from economically depressed areas of the country. Until now, the government has granted special assistance to the poor only if they have not converted to non-Hindu religions.

On March 1, several hundred Christians staged a rally in New Delhi to draw national attention to the government's discriminatory policy toward "scheduled caste" Christians. Two years ago, the Christians had a much larger rally in the

city to protest the same policy.

The controversy deals with a class of people known as the Dalits (literally "depressed"), previously referred to as "untouchables," who occupy the lowest possible position in Hindu society.

Historically, discrimination toward the Dalits barred them from using public facilities and confined them to dehumanizing labor and social stigmas. To escape their lot in society, many Dalits converted to non-Hindu faiths, such as Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, which do not teach caste distinctions.

The Indian Constitution grants power to the President under Article 341 to specify

those castes or tribes in each state who are to be considered backward or "scheduled castes" eligible for government assistance and job reservations.

The Presidential Order of 1950 states that "no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste." By an act of Parliament, the wording was changed in 1956 to "Hinduism or Sikh" religion. In 1990, it

was again amended to include Buddhists. Dalits who convert to Christianity or Islam remain excluded.

Christians are better off?

Courts have defended the policy by stating that job reservation for scheduled castes is not based on individual economic backwardness, but on the disabilities suffered

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Vacation Issue
1994

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News

Students head south for hard work and service

Coby Veenstra and Irene Bom
BOWMANVILLE, Ont. — Toronto travel agent Baldwin Verstraete says he's been booking more trips in the past few years for youth service projects. The students at Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville, Ont., recently went overboard to prove this trend. For one week students scattered across North America to pitch in on a host of projects.

The Grade 12 class went to Cumberland, Maryland, a poverty stricken area in the Appalachians, under the umbrella

of CORA (Commission on Religion in Appalachia). They took part in a number of projects, the chief of which was work on restoring a long-abandoned triplex house. (Reports were, that one could see out the roof from the basement.) It will eventually become a house for battered women. What a worthwhile goal! Tearing down old walls was fun and a handy-dandy vent for latent or even active destructive tendencies. Roofing was challenging and debris clearing just plain hard work.



Grade 12 students restored an abandoned house.

Take note, schools and churches!

If your school or church is involved in a special project that may be of interest to others, send us a picture and a brief explanation. We'll be happy to publish it, provided the picture is sharp and tells a thousand words!

Editor



PHOTOS: COURTESY DCHS

Grade 11 students built countless wooden frames.

But students tackled it with good humor and enthusiasm and felt really good about their week. Their one regret was that they couldn't stay long enough to actually finish the project.

Wiring and yard work

The Grade 11 class went on a Habitat for Humanity project in Baldwin, Mich. Habitat builds new houses for low-income owners. Some students worked on wiring in one house. Some installed a much needed septic tank, did yard work, built countless wooden frames for new houses.

Why did the school choose such faraway projects? The answer is simply that these two projects were the most suited to a high school class project. CRWRC provided the money for transportation.

The Grade 9 and 10 students

stayed closer to home. Many Grade 10's spent two days in Toronto in food banks and soup kitchens, learning first-hand the needs of the poor. More importantly they learned that the fabled poor are really just people like the rest of us. Two Grade 9 students spent three and a half days in the CRWRC office to learn what it was about. Volunteer service in rest homes, other soup kitchens, help for those who really needed it (moving furniture for a single mom, spring cleaning for an elderly couple) cleaning up a neglected park, Meals On Wheels, Toronto Lighthouse Mission, John Howard Society, group homes, hospital therapy rooms — all were learning arenas for the younger students. A musical group toured rest homes and the area psychiatric institution. Gate 3:16 in

Oshawa was also invaded by teams of willing workers.

Back to school the following week, students had the opportunity to share experiences extensively in small groups and in the student body.

The following comments were overheard about service.

"It doesn't matter how big or small your gift. You can always give" (Grade 9).

"I learned I really like giving and I'll probably do it the rest of my life" (Grade 12).

"Giving is really easy, once you get into it" (Grade 11).

"Giving never ends. There are always more needs" (Grade 10).

"Sometimes something very little can mean a whole lot" (Grade 9).

"When you serve you do it for someone else but it feels good" (Grade 9).

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Myth of Canada's north as wilderness

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connection, he adds.

He admits that such trips can easily go awry: "If we simply see it as a show and tell time, it's wrong. And if we tramp in there with too many people, we destroy what we've come to observe."

Breaking up

Environmentalist John Wood says that problem also lurks in attempts to get back in touch with nature.

"We still have this myth of Canada's north as wilderness.

That if we started in Vancouver and headed north, in 50 miles we would be beyond roads," he says.

"But that just isn't true anymore. Canada, the U.S. and the Soviet Union are the only countries left with significant blocks of roadless area, and these are rapidly being broken up."

It doesn't help that Canada's national parks were initially set up as recreation, rather than preservation areas.

"If a whole area is wild, it makes sense that parks can be

sports areas," Wood explains, adding that that attitude is changing.

He says his general rule is not to head to a national park for what can be done in the neighborhood — such as playing baseball or soccer or, for that matter, driving a car.

But at the same time he says he wants to allow people of different levels to ease into a nature experience: "You can't just limit parks to the 20 and 30 year-olds who are able to carry 75 to 100 pounds on their backs."

News

Missionaries bring equality, say conservative Hindus

...continued from page 1
because of social identity. The law assumes that conversion to Christianity relieves Dalits from social discrimination, therefore making government assistance unwarranted.

Advocates of an amendment to extend the benefits to all members of backward castes argue that religious conversion has not altered social or economic conditions.

According to the *Times of India*, Justice J. Kanakaraj of the Madras high court was among those urging the state government of Tamil Nadu to

thoroughly assess the plight of Dalit converts and their need for fair treatment.

"What has religion to do with social backwardness and ostracism practiced against certain groups of people for a number of years," he asked.

Conservative Hindus have supported the exclusion of Christian Dalits from government assistance. They contend that equality has been provided by Christian missionaries. Christian groups, however, view the policy as a violation of Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which protects

freedom of conscience and religion.

Some Christians, such as Ebenezer Sunder Raj of the Indian Missions Association, have argued that the discrimination toward Dalit Christians is part of a larger agenda of a pro-Hindu Indian government to stop the exodus of depressed classes into non-Hindu religions.

Debate only 'symbolic'

During the parliamentary debate, Atal Behari Vajpayee of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party called upon mem-

bers of Parliament to examine the original intent of the constitution when considering the issue of job reservations for Dalit converts. Vajpayee added that Parliament should find out whether Dalits continue to suffer discrimination after converting to other faiths.

Valson Thampu of St. Stephen's College in New Delhi cautioned that the debate, which might appear to be a move toward greater

religious tolerance in India, may be misleading. During the 1993 elections in several key north Indian states, the Dalit issue became more prominent.

"Advocacy for Christian Dalits is only symbolic," said Thampu, adding that in hopes of expanding their vote bank, political parties often exploit the realities of the Dalit community, which comprises almost 46 per cent of India's total population.

Survey: Good sex comes to those who wait

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Roll over Hugh Hefner — tell Madonna the news. A new survey commissioned by the Family Research Council (FRC) found that sexual satisfaction is strongly and positively linked to marriage and traditional sexual ethics.

The FRC poll found that the people most likely to report that they are very satisfied with their current sex life are married people who strongly believe that sex outside of marriage is wrong. The poll found that 72 per cent of these married "traditionalists" report high sexual satisfaction — 31 percentage points higher than unmarried "non-traditionalists" and 13 points higher than married non-traditionalists.

The findings are consistent with a major sex survey commissioned by *Redbook* magazine during the 1970s. That survey of approximately 100,000 women found that women who were sexually active at age 15 are more likely to express dissatisfaction with their current sex life than those who refrained from early sexual involvement. The study also found that highly religious women were less likely to engage in premarital sex, and more likely to describe their current sex lives as "good" or "very good."

Faith, moral views the key

The findings also match those of a 1992 survey of *Christianity Today* readers which

found a link between premarital abstinence and sexual satisfaction in marriage. "Couples not involved before marriage and faithful during marriage are more satisfied with their current sex life than those who were involved sexually before marriage," reported Dr. David Larson of the National Institute of Health, who reviewed the research.

The FRC poll also found a significant link between religious commitment and sexual satisfaction. Two thirds of poll respondents who attend church weekly reported that

they are very satisfied with their sex lives, while barely half of those who never attend services reported high satisfaction with their sexual lives.

The FRC poll found views on sexual morality to be an even stronger indicator of sexual satisfaction than church attendance. Persons who believe sex outside of marriage is wrong were more likely to be satisfied with their sex lives than those who see nothing wrong with extramarital sex.

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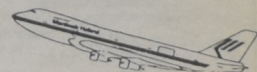
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Editorial

Three spring vacation snapshots

A cross-cultural send-off

For the past year we had a Japanese student staying in our downstairs apartment. We shared the kitchen. That required a fair bit of adjustment on each other's part.

Makoto cooked in oil. He would heat the pan and pour in some oil, which immediately resulted in steaming clouds of grease rising to the ceiling, and ferocious sputterings of fat descending on the stove. Then he would begin the process of frying his vegetables and meat. Once he almost caused a fire when some oil spilled into the gas flame.

Makoto was co-operative, though. With a bit of gentle coaching we were able to prevent the burning down of our house and to slow down the process of covering the kitchen walls and ceiling with a thick layer of grease. I'm sure we did things that annoyed him.

Two weeks ago my wife and I left for a week's vacation in South Carolina. During our absence, Makoto was going to return to Japan. We would not be there to say farewell to him.

This seemed to bother Makoto. "A pity," he said to us, "that you will be gone when I leave." We agreed. It didn't seem right for us to take off on him like that.

Makoto was strangely sad about the fact that we were going to part ways. The morning we left for the South he got up with us at six a.m. He helped us pack our car. When it was time to go, he walked us to the car, as if it were we who had stayed at his house.

We backed our car out of the driveway. As we pulled away, we were jolted by what we saw on our front lawn. Makoto suddenly bowed deeply in our direction and held the

bow for as long as we saw him. We had thought to see his face for a last time as we waved at him, but all we could see was his pitch black hair bent over his knees.

We were touched by his show of respect. We felt honored. We had never seen him bow his head even slightly before. He had probably been instructed before coming to Canada that bowing was not the Canadian way of greeting someone. But this morning he threw compromise to the wind and gave us a true Japanese farewell, from the heart.

I think we're going to miss the sizzling of his pan. **BW**

His daily cross

On Good Friday evening my wife and I took in a worship service in a small Roman Catholic church in Mount Airy, North Carolina. An old priest, perhaps in his nineties, officiated. His hands and voice were shaking as he read from the Bible. During the mass he took forever trying to break wafers in half with his shaking hands. The congregation waited patiently.

It was anything but a smooth service. The two laypersons helping him did not always know what to do, and the old priest could be heard instructing them. "Genuflect," he would

say, and they knelt briefly.

My wife and I did not kiss the feet of a small crucified Christ, as the congregation did, nor did we physically take part in the mass. But we enjoyed the singing and the Bible reading. And ... we were strangely blessed by the all too human efforts of a frail, old man probably suffering from arthritic pain and weariness, but determined to serve.

It was the closest thing I have ever come to seeing the crucifixion enacted in church by a person who was not consciously trying. **BW**

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Easter in Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, is an unreal world in many ways, especially around Easter. Up and down Ocean Boulevard young bucks and does are hanging from balconies and leaning out of cars. The traffic is snarled, but nobody minds because they're there to ogle and to make impressions on each other. It's a slow-moving meat market along the boulevard. Beer is in plentiful supply.

In one store I spot a sign that reads: "Buckle up with Jesus." Isn't that cute? What else can you do with Jesus that makes money?

But a mile or so away from the centre we have found a quiet family-oriented motel with a heated pool. The sun shines nicely here and we're only two blocks away from the beach. I hear a mockingbird singing. On Easter day we celebrate the Lord's resurrection in an Episcopal church.

A few days later, we take a 12-mile drive south to Brookgreen Gardens. In a park filled with sculptures and huge oak trees we ogle dogwood blossoms and 50 varieties of azalea bushes in full bloom! Along the walls are

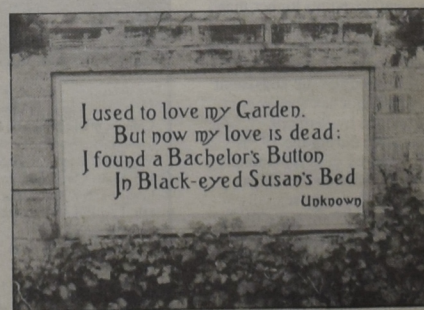


PHOTO: BERT WITVOET

snatches of poetry etched into cement plaques. Most of them have to do with flowers and gardens.

Every morning we take a long walk along the beach. Afterwards we read books at the poolside. And over the news we hear that it's snowing in Ontario! Wonderful! "Go south with Jesus" I almost hear myself say.

How is it possible that one can be restored in Myrtle Beach around Easter? Christ is risen indeed! **BW**

Letters

Pastor's boundary-breaking is more than abuse of office

The supposition in your editorial on March 11 about a pastor committing adultery with a consenting parishioner is very misleading and confusing. Consent is valid only when two parties have equal status or power. As you explain in the next paragraph, it's the pastor who is in the power and authority-over position. The pastor is responsible for setting and keeping boundaries, just as in any profession — Doctor, patient etc. Most church leaders prefer to believe

that a pastor or church leader is enticed or seduced (the example you give of the woman undressing), but this is simply not reality! The truth is that the neediness and vulnerability of the woman seeking pastoral care makes her easy prey for being victimized by very unscrupulous church leaders. Such a person is in need of protection. Taking advantage of a person with less power is not a case of adultery; it is called sexual assault under the criminal code of

Canada.

Still blaming victims

Yes, the pastor has abused his office and betrayed the trust of the congregation. But is that *all* the church should be concerned about? That's it? What is blatantly missing from this whole editorial is the fact that the pastor abused his office and betrayed the trust of the congregation *because he abused another human being!* He left a victim in his wake. The pastor as God's representative, has abused her, fracturing the victim's knowledge of being created in God's image. The victim feels abandoned by God, and the church most often discredits her and tells her to "go and sin no more," blaming her.

If your home is burglarized should the robber or you the victim be held

responsible? Why should the victim of a sexual assault have to confess her sin? That is blaming her, making it her fault. This attitude on the part of church leaders is crazy-making stuff for victims, and in fact revictimizes them.

Blaming the victim also robs the perpetrator of an opportunity to truly repent. How does that benefit his eternal wellbeing? Where is the deterrent for him when the church trivializes or covers up his crimes? He will certainly not seek the long-term treatment by experts which he so desperately needs.

All church leaders have a responsibility to make churches safe. A good place to start is Carolyn Holderread Heggen's book *Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches*.

Anna van den Boogaard
St. Catharines, Ont.

We need to cross the Rubicon of compassion

I was saddened by the tenor and tone of Dr. James DeJong's article regarding homosexuality (April 1). Though the article speaks of compassion, its practical expression is severely curtailed in the conclusion.

On this score the article stands in sharp contrast to the report to which Dr. DeJong appeals, namely, the report on homosexuality of the 1973 Synod of the Christian Reformed Church. This report judges that homosexual practice is "incompatible with obedience to the will of God as revealed in Holy Scripture."

At the same time this synodical document and the guidelines adopted by synod have as their major thrust an urgent call for concretely expressed compassion. Dr. DeJong's concluding cautions effectively mute that call.

The article closes by warning 1) against joining the Metropolitan Community Church, 2) against coming "out of the closet with public fanfare" and 3) against forming or participating in "homosexual support groups for Christians." I would like to comment on each point.

False warnings

1) One may have valid criticism of the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches but not without acknowledging that many originally joined this church because there was nowhere else for Christians to turn. In its origin the FMCC represents an "unpaid bill of the churches."

2) The statement that "it is highly problematic for a homosexual Christian to 'come out of the closet' with public fanfare" is so true as fact that it rings false as warning. In our communities "public fanfare" about one's homosexual orientation is almost unthinkable. Rather, a great hush surrounds this issue and these our brothers and sisters. "Coming out," when it occurs within conservative Christian communities, is done in great fear and trembling. It is the calling of the Christian community to create a space safe enough to break the silence — for how we can show compassion if homosexual persons are forced to hide?

3) What better way to show compas-

sion than by means of support groups? What better way to bear one another's burdens? Yet, the article suggests that, by forming or participating in such support groups, one may cross a "psychological Rubicon in which a person's identity may be fastened and fixed on that which is transient and has been overcome in Christ."

To turn again to the report, it proceeds from the assumption that "homosexuality is not the result of any conscious choice or decision on the part of the person who is homosexual."

Surely, forming or joining a Christian support group that works with the guidelines and in the spirit of the '73 report does not represent the crossing of a Rubicon, a point of no return — except that of communal compassion. And perfect love, John tells us, casts out fear.

Twenty some years after the '73 report, we can do better than warn against support groups and caution against phantom fanfare. We need to explore concrete ways of expressing compassion.

George Vandervelde
Willowdale, Ont.

What's wrong with support groups?

Calvin Seminary president James DeJong's article "Christian identity and coming out of the closet" (April 1) not only makes a number of bold assertions but also raises some key issues. Before I ask a few questions, let me make it clear that I do *not* wish to discuss the issue of whether homosexual activity is biblically permissible.

Let's just assume that Scripture does not favor it.

1. President DeJong rightly asserts: "Christian self-identity requires that the believer not characterize or identify herself or himself with the sinful, broken and distorted features of this passing age. In Christ we are becoming new creatures."

My question: Would DeJong also agree that this requirement *equally applies to all* "sinful, broken and distorted features of this passing age," including alcoholism, consumerism, denominationalism, hedonism, individualism, materialism, militarism, nationalism, racism and sexism?

2. President DeJong rightly asserts that "we are not defined or determined by our creaturely brokenness or inadequacies — not by our physical handicaps, nor by our mental impairments, nor by our sexual orientations."

My question: Would DeJong also agree that because, as he declares, "our identity is with God in Christ, whose

Continued on p. 6...

A belated explanation

In the April 8 issue of CC we published an article by Dan Allison entitled "Did Jesus really say 'I am the resurrection'?" We accepted the article thinking that it represented the author's own views and statements. However, a week ago we received a letter from Mr. Allison in which he apologized for having lifted ideas and statements without acknowledgement from an article written by Brian Onken and published in *Forward/Spring-Summer 1986*. Unfortunately, the apology arrived after Mr. Allison's article had been printed. We condemn this kind of writing as dishonest writing and a form of theft. Mr. Allison has promised us to contact *Forward* magazine and Mr. Onken.

Editor

Kudos to an exemplary CC supporter

Stan de Jong

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — We recently received a letter from an elderly woman from eastern Ontario who stated simply: "I cannot afford it anymore. Sorry about that."

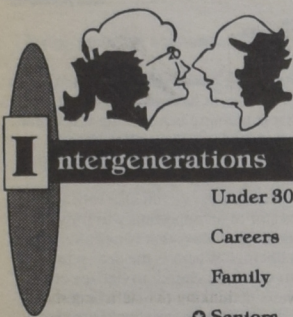
She did renew her own CC subscription, but this letter meant she was no longer able to pay for a number of other subscriptions, as she has done for many years.

For many years this woman — together with her husband (who went to be with the Lord some years ago) — faithfully paid for the CC subscriptions of an ever-growing number of family members. They are now scattered far from "home base," residing in several parts of Ontario, as well as Alberta and British Columbia. This year, the list of paid-for subscriptions had grown to 22!

It's that kind of commitment that has kept CC on the map for almost 50 years. Now that sagging subscription numbers are giving us cause for concern (see Rev. Jacob Kuntz's open letter in CC, April 8), we need that commitment more than ever. We need continued support from our present subscribers and we need fresh support from non-subscribers.

Finally, dear friend in eastern Ontario, from all of us at CC: A warm thank you for your love and support for our paper over all these years. God bless you and yours and give you good health.

Letters



Under 30

Careers

Family

Seniors



Alice Los

Goodbye... and hello!

This will be my last column under the heading "Small Talk," and I write it with mixed feelings. It was in the summer of 1979 that I ventured to send the first of these musings to the office of (then) Calvinist Contact under the pseudonym of Lynn Miller. It was accepted and I con-

tinued to submit more of the same whenever the mood struck me.

Agonizing, but no one noticed

Nevertheless, I managed to ease into a routine of finding something to write about at the last minute and to commit it to paper with more or (mostly) less confidence. Then I'd mail it for better or for worse. Later, I would sometimes agonize over a nasty little printing mistake which, I thought, spoiled a carefully crafted sentence, only to realize eventually that no one had known the difference.

I calmed my fears of ridicule by telling myself that nobody would expect a treatise on world affairs in a column clearly labelled as small talk.

who asked did not know that my physical image was the least of my worries. Meeting a deadline was, and owning up to my true identity!

Yet I have been encouraged, too, by the kind and positive comments which I received, usually in personal contact, and I bravely accepted an occasional negative remark as well. If nothing else, those who write for publication are a vulnerable lot. And I have been amazed and humbly grateful to discover that, hey, some people actually read what I have the audacity to write at my kitchen table!

Most of all, I have thanked God who allowed and enabled me to indulge in that which, yes, often was a source of deep satisfaction for me.

New focus

But now, the editor wants this space for another column. It will be part of an "Intergenerations" monthly rotation

which focuses on seniors, and it will deal with the many more or less complex issues, practical and otherwise, that affect old(er) men and women as we approach the end of the 20th century.

I have been asked to co-ordinate this new column. For a large part I will rely on the experts in this field and report on what they have to say or have them speak for themselves. There will also be room for questions and answers on occasion. Look for it in the May 20 issue.

And so, thank you for reading for so long what I thought would interest, comfort or uplift you, and till we meet again — same place, same time, different bill of fare.

Alice Los lives in Listowel, Ont.

What's wrong with support groups?

...continued from p.5

image we bear," no "creaturally brokenness or inadequacies" (including "our sexual orientations") will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord? (cf. Romans 8: esp. 37-39).

3. President De Jong rightly asserts: "The community of reconciliation and love is the home of people with all sorts of abnormalities who by faith have accepted the gospel that their identity is not set by that which is passing away."

My question: Would De Jong also agree that this community is the inclusive home of all Christ-believers, also of those who confess that their practices of all the "isms" mentioned under number 1 above are forgiven because of the reconciling work of Jesus, who takes away the sin of the world? (cf.

John 1:29).

On which ground?

4. I assume that president De Jong agrees with all of the above precisely because, as he asserts, "our identity is with God in Christ, whose image we bear." In view of his confession, which I share, that "in Christ we are becoming new creatures," I don't understand his conclusion that "it may even be spiritually ill-advised to form or participate in homosexual support groups for Christians."

My question: does De Jong disagree with the 1973 synodical decisions? They outline how the churches may deal "in a pastoral way with the problems of homosexuality."

On which biblical grounds does De Jong consider it "spiritually ill-advised to form or participate in homosexual

support groups for Christians?" What is wrong with synod's pastoral advice regarding homosexuality to "encourage an understanding of and compassion for persons who live with this sexual disorder, and dispel the prejudices under which they suffer?"

Would De Jong make the same case against support groups for Christians who struggle with all the "isms" mentioned under number 1 above? If he does not, then why does he single out a highly pressured group of Christians who, like all of us, daily need genuine love and support?

Gerald Vandezande
Agincourt, Ont.

Keep reviewing movies but quit smoking!

Two comments on your April 8 issue.

1. Since I read a library copy of CC, I was not asked to respond to your readers' response questionnaire. If I had been, I would have rated Marian Van Til's movie reviews at or near the top. I also read other reviews, but often I'll wait with seeing a movie until I've read her com-

It's good to come out of the closet

Recently, we spoke with a friend of ours, who is homosexual, about the article of Dr. James De Jong, reprinted from the *CTS in Focus* in your April 1 edition. His response to the gist of the article was that the author probably has not knowingly talked to someone who is homosexual.

Our problem is that Dr. De Jong's view lacks any pastoral or empathetic touch. The article is rather unhelpful in trying to understand how we need to be loving and pastoral to each other when faced with the complexity of homosexuality.

Theologically, we have no quarrel with Dr. De Jong; in fact, a summary paragraph of his is worth repeating here: "...we are not defined or determined by our creaturely brokenness or inadequacies — not by our handicaps, not by our mental impairments, nor by our sexual orientations. We are affected and conditioned by them. We must recognize them, cope with them, compensate for them. But our identity is with God in Christ whose image we bear."

The truth of what Dr. De Jong writes above should lead him to different conclusions about the kind of support homosexual brothers and sisters need from their churches. Sometimes the church's "moral bearings" grind so tightly that no affirmation of Christ's identity is possible.

It would be good, in fact, if men and women could "come out of the closet" in our communities so that there would not have to be secret lives and we could share each other's burdens in our identity in Christ.

John and June Tenyenhuis
Etobicoke, Ont.

ments. The reviews are always perceptive, fair, and undogmatically Christian sensitivities.

2. Stan de Jong's picture of him puffing his pipe struck me for two reasons. Our daughter is in her tenth day of trying to break her eight-year nicotine addiction; we're encouraging her in her resolve. CC's tacit approval of smoking (or at least of de Jong's addiction) is

hardly an encouraging gesture to those fighting the addiction. Moreover, the ad of the Ministry of Health on page 13 of the same issue shows more concern for our children on the part of "the world," than your picture does from a Christian source.

Harry Boonstra
Grand Rapids, Mich.

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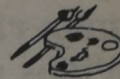
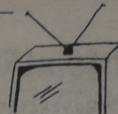
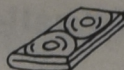
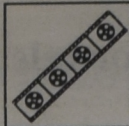
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Media / Arts



Schindler's List deserves its accolades

Schindler's List

Rated R

Stars Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes
Based on the book by Thomas Keneally
Directed by Steven Spielberg

If people start talking about a particular movie over lunch at work or coffee with friends, or with family members at supper, there's a good chance it may have been made by Steven Spielberg: *E.T.*, *Jaws*, *The Color Purple*, the *Indiana Jones* trilogy, *Jurassic Park*...and now, *Schindler's List*.

It's no secret that until *Schindler's List* picked up a mantle-full of Oscars last month, Spielberg's movies were considered by Hollywood insiders to be too popular to be worthy of Oscars. (Translation: they were all supremely jealous of Spielberg's unfailing ability to read audiences and tell essentially old-fashioned fairytales-with-a-moral that millions of people want to see.)

Then Spielberg comes along and decides to tackle the Holocaust, of all things. Yes, Spielberg — the fantasy king! What could the most wildly successful and entertaining director in film history do with a profoundly serious subject like the Holocaust? The answer



PHOTO: U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Liam Neeson as Schindler (r) and Ralph Fiennes as Nazi Amon Goeth.

is: plenty.

Forest and trees

The problem with presenting the Holocaust, in films particularly, is that the focus is either on the forest or the trees. If you try to depict the enormity the slaughter, individual stories become as so many discarded seedlings. If you focus on the individuals, the immensity of this attempted genocide committed by a civilized people gets lost.

In a way, it's perhaps because Spielberg's imagination has operated in a simple, moral, good-versus-evil framework that he has been able to see both the "forest" and the "trees" of the Holocaust. After all, on one level, what story is more obviously about evil rising and good finally triumphing over it than Hitler's Holocaust?

Spielberg is able to convincingly capture the story of one man who saved 1,200 Jews from the ovens while showing us enough glimpses of the lives of a few of those 1,200 to make us care deeply about their fate and that of all the others.

Womanizer

Oskar Schindler was a Czech-born German, a nominal Catholic. He was a cad, a womanizer, a war profiteer. But something unexpected happens to him. He begins to care about the Jewish workers in his

enamel (later, munitions) factory, and he turns his great ability to con others into a virtue: he spends buckets of money bribing Nazis so he can save the lives of "his Jews." He unconsciously moves from a selfish amorality to the moral fixity of a "righteous person" — a designation he was given after the war by the state of Israel. (Ironically, Schindler was a failure at everything else he tried, both before and after the war.)

In the role of Schindler, Australian-born actor Liam Neeson superbly captures the man's worldliness-with-a-conscience, his growing repulsion at what his Nazi friends were doing and his unconscious resolve to avert some of the consequences.

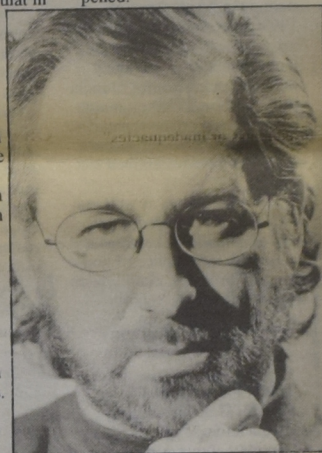
Perhaps an even more impressive acting feat here, though, is Englishman Ralph Fiennes' role as sadistic camp commander Amon Goeth. Through tiny hints at self-doubt and fleeting mercies, Fiennes' Goeth becomes a human monster, someone you can't entirely dismiss as a fiend, someone you take the time to wonder about, contemplating how he could have gone so tragically wrong. Spielberg's own Jewishness is a great asset to this film. It might have been a liability if he had been unable to look dispassionately at his subjects. But he seems to instinctively

know how to shoot this story: he knew that he must go to Poland, to the scene of the crime; that close-up shots would best tell the story of these mostly nameless victims; that composer John Williams, whose bombastic orchestral musical style has been so recognizable in *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park* and a host of other films, would be able to create a highly effective, quietly melancholy score; that black-and-white film would sear these images into our heads far more indelibly than technicolor; and that in the midst of that colorless world the fate of a little girl in a red coat would haunt us.

At the end of the film Spielberg reverts to using colored film when he introduces us to some of the "Schindler Jews" alive today; we see them place small rocks (a sign of respect) on Schindler's gravestone in Israel. Whether that visual epilogue was a good idea or not is debatable. It's informative but tends to blunt the emotions exposed in the previous three hours. And it satisfies a vague curiosity we have to see these people who suffered so (one keeps

thinking that suffering should show — as should the brutality of the Nazis who are now old men show — but it never does).

No one film, biography, novel (or even theological treatise) will mine the depths of the Holocaust. But *Schindler's List* deserves an honored place among those works which help tell the story, especially in a time when fully a quarter of North Americans have begun to think that the Holocaust might not have happened.



Steven Spielberg

PHOTO: GEORGE HOLZ

Gregorian chant hits pop charts

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — What's a nice monk like you doing on a pop chart like this? The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain debuted on *Billboard's* pop chart at number 42 in late March — and nobody is sure just why. The group has been recording for years, and their current hit album, *Chants*, includes selections recorded two decades ago. But despite the lack of advertising, the album sold 24,000 copies in the U.S. in one week, and has sold about 350,000 copies in Spain. Steven Murphy, president of the appropriately named Angel Records, which handles the album, told *USA Today* that their newfound fame hasn't spoiled the monks. "I don't think they've bought a Gulfstream jet and painted it brown or anything," he said. "The royalties go to their charities and keeping the monastery functioning."



PHOTO: DAVID JAMES

Schindler: Con artist turned hero.

Church, Marian Van Til, page editor

Human rights agency calls for release of China's religious prisoners

Elisabeth Farrell

WASHINGTON (NNI)—The human rights agency Asia Watch says 1993 was "without doubt the worst year for political arrests and trials in China since mid-1990 and the aftermath of the June 4, 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement."

The watchdog group asserts this and other claims in its newly-released 664-page report entitled "Detained in China and Tibet: A Directory of Political and Religious Prisoners."

The report documents more than 1,000 persons known or believed to be presently imprisoned because of their political, ethnic or religious beliefs. Solid prominence is given to religious prisoners.

According to the report, during the "crackdown of 1993" three Christians died in prison or while under surveillance. In addition, the study provides case histories of eight Protestants and Catholics who received new prison sentences, 10 who were arrested and two who were briefly detained last year.

The report notes as well that 1993 saw a "widespread pattern of detentions, beatings and finings by local police of house church Christians, mainly poor farmers, in the three north-

central provinces of Henan, Anhui and Shaanxi."

True number may be much higher

"The true number of people detained in China on account of their peacefully held views remains impossible to determine," the report stresses, adding that the exact number of religious and political prisoners in China is many times higher than the number documented and listed.

The agency calls on the Chinese government "immediately and unconditionally to release all prisoners [held for expressing their political, ethnic or religious views] and to provide a full accounting of all those in the [status unclear] category."

The Asia Watch report also notes that the Chinese government has recently begun to practice a new diplomatic tactic, a "kind of 'hostage politik,' whereby certain political or religious prisoners whose cases have received special attention from Western governments or human rights groups are effectively turned into bargaining chips, to be released at key moments for maximum publicity effect."

The study asserts: "In the process, those eager to sideline

human rights considerations and resume business as usual in the burgeoning China market all too often welcome these isolated releases as representing 'significant progress' or even 'major concessions,' while the largely anonymous majority of such prisoners are quietly forgotten."

In presenting the new report to members of the U.S. Congress, Asia Watch Washington Director Mike Jendrzeczyk urged politicians not to repeat the familiar pattern in the upcoming debate over renewal of China's preferential Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status. So far the Clinton administration has held out for human rights improvements in China before renewing China's trade status. Canada's Prime Minister Chretien, though, is pushing for new trade with China, insisting that human rights violations will stop as conditions in the country improve.

The Asia Watch report concludes, however, that "international pressure over the past few years has been virtually the only factor serving to keep in check the more flagrantly repressive impulses of the Chinese authorities. Any move now by the international community to abandon that pres-

sure would send an entirely inappropriate signal to Beijing, one that would probably be interpreted as a green light to

commence open season on dissidents for the foreseeable future."

Evangelicals, Catholics pledge to work for unity

NEW YORK (EP) —

Leaders in the evangelical and Roman Catholic communities promised March 29 to work together to reduce conflicts between the two religious traditions, and to co-operate on such social issues as abortion and school choice.

The group signed a declaration titled "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium." Evangelical signatories included leaders such as Prison Fellowship founder Charles Colson, broadcaster Pat Robertson, Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright, and Southern Baptist

leaders.

Most of the Catholic leaders who signed the agreement are from the conservative wing of the church. They include Michael Novak, a recent Templeton Prize winner, and Richard Neuhaus, a one time Lutheran who is now director of the Institute on Religion and Public Life and editor of the journal *First Things*. The document is a result of a coalition launched in 1992 by Colson and Neuhaus.

The coalition urges Catholics and evangelicals to stop proselytizing each others' members and to accept each other as members of God's family.

"There is a necessary distinction between evangelizing and what is today commonly called proselytizing or 'sheep stealing,'" says the statement. "We condemn the practice of recruiting people from another community for the purposes of denominational or institutional aggrandizement..."

The statement asserts that proselytism within the Christian community is "neither theologically legitimate nor a prudent use of resources."

Shared belief is what counts

The statement acknowledges significant theological differences between evangelicals and Catholics but suggests that those differences are not as significant as the shared belief in Christ's resurrection and divinity. "All who accept Christ as Lord and Savior are brothers and sisters in Christ," says the declaration.

The statement is seen as a natural outgrowth of increasing co-operation between Catholics and evangelicals. The growing Catholic charismatic movement has resulted in contacts with evangelical charismatics, while shared positions on the abortion issues have led Catholics and evangelicals to link arms in the political arena.

Azerbaijani president calls for religious help

BAKU, Azerbaijan (EP) — After failed attempts by secular groups to attain peace in the Nagorno-Karabagh enclave of Azerbaijan, President Haidar Aliiev has appealed to ecumenical organizations and religious leaders for help in ending the hostilities.

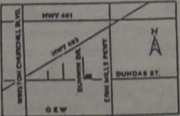
"The resolution of some political problems is beyond the reach of politicians," Aliiev told representatives of the World Council of Churches (WCC) last month. "Do not underestimate the role of spiritual leaders. It is central."

Azerbaijan and Armenia have disputed the Nagorno-Karabagh region for several years, resulting in deaths on both sides; more than 7,000 Azerbaijanis have died since December.

The ecumenical groups have continuing contact with Vasken I, supreme patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and with Armenian government leaders. They have also had positive meetings with the head of the Azerbaijani Muslim community.



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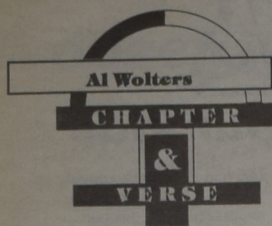


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Hebrew verbs point to two kings

"He will rule from sea and from the River to the ends of the earth" (Ps. 72:8).

Psalm 72 describes an ideal king and is significant on two levels. On the one hand it describes what the Israelite king ought to be like, and on the other hand it describes what the future Messianic king will be like. On the first level, the psalm sheds biblical light on the question of what normative human government is all about: maintaining the right by protecting the weak and punishing the wicked. On the second level it points forward to the promised kingship of the Messiah. That is why a well-known versifica-

tion of this psalm begins with the words: "Christ shall have dominion over land and sea."

Wishes and predictions

The two levels of the psalm are made possible by a grammatical ambiguity in the Hebrew language. There are a whole series of verbal forms in the psalm which can be interpreted as either wishes or predictions. The New International Version (NIV), for example, translates these verbs as *future*s: "he will judge your people in righteousness" (vs. 2), "He will defend the afflicted among the people" (vs. 4), "He will endure as long as the sun" (vs. 8), and so on. But the NIV also has a note explaining that

all these verbs can also be translated as *wishes*: "May he judge," "May he defend," "May he endure," and so on. If you choose the latter translation, Psalm 72 reads like a "mirror of princes," a concrete description of how those in political authority should exercise their office; if you choose the former, it reads like a portrait-in-advance of Christ's dominion.

Coat of arms

It may seem strange that a biblical psalm should operate on both these levels, exploiting the grammatical ambiguity of the Hebrew verbal system to convey what at first seems two rather different messages. But this is not strange at all from the biblical point of view. Especially in the so-called "royal psalms" (of which Psalm 72 is one), there is regularly a double reference: first to the Davidic king, and then to the Messiah who was to come in the line of the Davidic kingship. We see this illustrated, for example, in Psalms 2 and 110, and the way the New Testament applies them to Jesus Christ. The redemptive-historical reality of

the Davidic dynasty ties the two levels of meaning together.

It is thus very fitting that the Canadian coat of arms includes a quotation from Psalm 72. If you look closely at the coat of arms as it is found on a Canadian two-dollar bill (or any other Canadian banknote) you will find the Latin words *a mari usque ad mare*, "from sea to sea." This is a quotation from Psalm 72:8, which the Fathers of Confederation thought would be fitting for a country that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This thought is also reflected in the Canadian flag, on which the two red bars on either side (which were blue in the original design) represent the two seas which bind the country on east and west. It is a poignant reminder, not only that Canada was once a Christian nation, but also that there are normative standards for government which are ultimately under the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, whether he is acknowledged or not.

Al Wolters is a quondam philosopher who teaches Bible and Greek at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont.

Priests, nuns disagree with church on birth control, other issues

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — Catholic priests and nuns in the U.S. are divided in their support for church teaching on birth control and celibacy for priests, according to a *Los Angeles Times* poll. The survey of over 2,000 priests and over 1,000 nuns found that large per-

centages of those questioned differed with church teaching. Fully 59 per cent of priests and 66 per cent of nuns favored allowing priests to marry. Ordination of women as priests was favored by 44 per cent of priests and 57 per cent of nuns. Only 49 per cent of priests and

37 per cent of nuns agreed with church teaching that it is a sin for married couples to use birth control.

However, large majorities of those surveyed supported church teaching on such issues as abortion, fornication and homosexuality.

Committee minutes read 'ask for prayer'

Bert Witvoet

STRATFORD, Ont. — Rev. Martin Geleynse is secretary of a group that plans to hold an Eastern Canada disability conference. A time and place have not yet been decided, nor have keynote speakers and workshops.

But the first task of the secretary, as dutifully recorded in the minutes, is to solicit prayer help for its project. So Geleynse has sent out an appeal for prayer partners.

"If the idea of such a conference appeals to you, please be a prayer partner," he writes. "Place the planning committee on your list of prayer concerns. We do not want to run ahead of the Lord. Pray that we may be humble and sensitive to his leading and that our plans may please him."

The committee wants the conference to be "of, by and for people with physical disabilities and their families,

focused on their relationship to the church and the church's relationship to them."

If the first part of the statement reads like a constitution for a democracy, that is exactly what the committee has in mind. It wants the disabled and their families to run the show.

According to Geleynse, the idea is that the Christian Reformed Church and its local

congregations integrate the physically disabled more fully and that the disabled integrate themselves into the life and ministry of the church.

For further information call: Bert Zwiers (905-639-0257), Peter deBruyne (905-945-9631), or Martin Geleynse (519-271-5793).

Russian leader denies Jewish connection

MOSCOW, Russia (EP) — Anti-Semitic Russian leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is denying reports that he is part Jewish and that at age 18 he changed his name from Edelstein, a Jewish name.

The hard-line nationalist has verbally attacked Jews, saying that they should be deported, but according to public records

in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, where Zhirinovskiy was raised, he received permission in June 1964 to change his name.

Zhirinovskiy's mother, Alexandra Pavlovna, was first married to Andrei Zhirinovskiy, who, records show, died 18 months before Vladimir was born. She remarried Volf Isakovich Edelstein five

Age of Dead Sea Scrolls challenged by scholar

QUMRAN, Israel (EP) — The Dead Sea Scrolls may date from shortly after the death of Christ, not 200 B.C. as previously assumed, argues scroll scholar Neil Altman.

In the April issue of *The Lutheran Almanac* explained observations he had made from the scrolls. There are "Xs," said Altman, in the margins of Messianic passages in the Isaiah scroll. The "X" is the first character in the Greek word for Christ. Also, the Hebrew letter for "L" has an extra bar, forming a cross in the scroll, and in another scroll a cross is also inserted, Altman says.

The scrolls, which were discovered nearly 50 years ago in a desert cave near Qumran, Israel, were until 1991 accessible to only a few scholars, when they became available to others. If their dating in the early Christian era is true, that still makes them centuries older than the oldest Old Testament text available. But their age is crucial in interpreting them and in throwing light on the origins of Christianity.

Altman also has challenged the accepted belief that the Essenes, the group who possessed the scrolls, were a pre-Christian community.

months before the birth of her son. Zhirinovskiy says his mother had relationships with several men, but records indicate only two legal marriages.

The leader, who has been named leader of the Liberal

Democratic Party for the next 10 years and is its presidential candidate for 1996, has been compared to Adolf Hitler because of his extreme anti-Semitic views.

A dozen good videos



Bill Van Dyk

Any parent who has strolled down the aisles of a video store looking for something good for their kids to watch knows how difficult it is to find something that is both entertaining and rewarding.

There is no shortage of prospects — most video stores stock upwards of 5,000 titles — but a glance at the information on the jacket is not always helpful. In the minds of the producers, every film is "unforgettable," "a block-buster" that will "make you laugh, make you cry"... or make you wish you had spent three dollars on something else.

Some movies — Disney products in particular — advertise themselves as "wholesome" family entertainment. "Wholesome" does not guarantee originality, imagination or intelligence.

"Wholesome" movies may not cause irreparable harm to your child's psyche, but many of them will not stimulate your child's imagination or contribute to his or her developing sense of artistic values.

Spoonful of sugar

Many of these films are also escapist by nature: they encourage the viewer to fantasize about alternative worlds in which nannies sing, dogs talk and "a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down."

A good film doesn't have to be realistic, but it should reveal something about human nature or life in general. The humor should tickle, not mock; the characters should be true-to-life, not stereotypes. It should encourage children to admire enduring qualities of honesty, courage and loyalty.

Parents often underestimate the importance of the meaning of the movies their children watch. Think back to some movies you watched as a child. It is quite likely that you remember one or two of them that opened your eyes in ways that you will never forget, and that many have permanently influenced the way you see the world.

Life-long lesson

I vividly remember a short film from China called *Skinny and Fatty*. It was about a chubby little boy who was mocked and ridiculed by the other children because of his size. One classmate — a slim, athletic boy with domestic problems of his own — came

forward and befriended him.

I remember a comical scene in which Skinny frantically tried to help Fatty climb a steel pole in gym class. The rest of the boys became fascinated, as much with Skinny's self-sacrificing loyalty as with Fatty's determination. They stopped their jeering and watched, and broke out into cheers and celebration when Fatty finally made it.

Shortly afterwards, Fatty and Skinny had a fight and wouldn't speak to each other. I forget what they fought about, but I remember it broke my heart.

Disney would never have made this film. It was too raw, too honest and the ending was too sad. But I never forgot it. I never forgot how it must feel to be ridiculed because of your physical appearance, and how the courage of one person can triumph over the small-mindedness of thousands. "Skinny and Fatty" was not an overtly Christian film, but it taught me a wealth of things about love, acceptance and friendship.

The most important thing about watching videos with your kids is to watch the videos with your kids. Sit there beside them on the couch, put your feet up, and enjoy it with them.

Let them watch your reactions to the film. Don't be too critical, but do share insights into characterization, plot development and special effects. Consciously or not, your children will absorb cues from you about what is good, what is bad and what is just plain ugly.

Good investments

The following (in no particular order) is a list of 12 videos I highly recommended for kids. In making the selections for this list, I have tried to

balance two paramount concerns: 1) the films

should be well-made, original and demonstrate artistic creativity; and 2) the films must be entertaining to children and fun to watch.

Some of these selections may lean more heavily towards one or the other of these two facets (some kids will find "The Black Stallion" too slow-moving, but I believe the overall

worth of these films makes them a good investment in time.

And by the way, I've never seen "Skinny and Fatty" again, not on TV, not in the video stores. Maybe that's a good thing: I remember it as a gem. It would break my heart a second time if I ever found out it wasn't as good as I remembered it.

One dozen videos

Big (1988). Tom Hanks is a delight as a 12-year-old boy who unexpectedly gets his wish: to be big. He finds the adult world scary, but other adults find his lack of affectation and his enthusiasm fresh and amusing. Hanks makes the preposterous story line work with a body that jerks and jumps like it's inhabited by a kid, and with every dopey, unselfconscious smirk. Notice how the adults gradually behave more and more like (bad) children, fighting for professional status and throwing tantrums at perceived slights to their own importance. There is a subtext here about manipulation and greed, and about how we grown-ups sometimes lose sight of the importance of friendships and family. Watch for the hilarious job interview and the dance on the giant piano keys.

The Black Stallion (1979).

A beautiful dramatization of the classic children's book. Director Carroll Ballard had the good sense and patience to film a boy (photogenic Kelly Reno) being a boy instead of a child with limited range trying to be an actor. Mickey Rooney and Teri Garr are fine in supporting roles. This is not one of my children's favorites, but they liked it, and I hope they learned that it can be

to watch with your kids

worthwhile to stay with a film that is quiet but lyrical and captivating. The recent *Secret Garden* is produced by the same people. It's also lovely, but my children found it a bit too long.

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986). Not an obvious choice, but charming and lively and

fun, and the kids thoroughly enjoyed it. Unlike many films about teenagers, this one retains a sense of off-beat charm and innocence and doesn't buy into the pervasive anti-adult attitudes expressed in many films about teenagers.

Continued on p. 11...



A dozen good videos

...continued from p. 10

Groundhog Day (1991). Bill Murray is a heel of a small-time TV anchor and the charming Andee MacDowell his producer. Through a magical twist of fate, Murray is forced to repeat the same day over and over again until he gets something — he doesn't know what — right. Have patience: the first 30 minutes will remind you of a television sitcom, and the technical production values are poor, but Murray keeps pulling surprises out of his hat and the story just keeps getting better and better. Could anyone but Bill Murray have pulled this off? He's insecure and smug, carefree and enraged, offensive and charming. In the end, he has acquired a believable humanity and it's worth waiting for. This film is full of good things to say about love and redemption, and has lots of broad character humor that both kids and adults will enjoy.

The Great Race (1965). Not as good as it should have been, considering the talents involved, but still pretty enjoyable. Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon play hero and villain in a New York to Paris automobile road race set in the 1920s. The supporting cast, especially Peter Falk, often outshines the stars, and

the classic cars and European settings are a delight to eye and ear. Watch for Vivian Vance ("I love Lucy's" *Ethel*) as a suffragette.

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989). Some great visual magic in this entertaining, if somewhat predictable, vehicle for Rick Moranis of SCTV fame. Doesn't pretend to be anything it's not, which means you won't feel cheated at the end of the evening. Kids will enjoy the special effects and the humor. Watch for the dazzling bumble-bee flight. Kids will also tie in to the wholesome message about sticking up for each other and staying together.

Night at the Opera (1935). Not to everyone's taste, this Marx Brothers vehicle is the very definition of anarchistic, zany, madcap humor. Don't underestimate the appeal of older, black and white comedies: my youngest son never stopped laughing from the moment Harpo appeared on the screen. Most of Groucho's remarks will sail over your kid's heads, but they'll enjoy watching him waddle around and roll his eyes. If you like this, also try *Animal Crackers*, *Duck Soup* and *Horse Feathers*.



The Yearling (1946). Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's novel is the basis for this very sensitive story about a boy growing up in turn-of-the-century Florida and learning to deal with the sacrifices and compromises necessary for survival in the backwoods. No, this one's not colorized: it was actually filmed in technicolor. Like *Black Stallion*, the story unfolds at its own pace, taking time to develop nuances of character and subtleties of meaning. Something to think about: Why are there so few films like this about girls coming of age? Or do you even have to ask?

Sister Act (1992). Forget that the subplot has more holes in it than Swiss cheese: the real fun in this movie is the music, and the reason the film works is because the director wasn't content to hit you with one cheap effect and then jump into the next gag — the musical joke here is done right, creatively arranged and well-performed. My only quibble is that they cheated a little: the Sister's tambourine is truly miraculous! It sounds like a complete drum kit! There is a great subtext here as well, about Christians needing to get out and get involved with the world instead of hiding behind walls of orthodoxy and complacency.

Rescuers Down Under (1990). Disney Studios set the standard for animation many years ago but their stories often are neither fresh nor compelling. *Rescuers Down Under* is technically one of the most accomplished animated films ever made, and the story is more interesting than most because of its ecological message. Some of the sequences, especially involving the jalopy wheeling away in shadows and dust, and the boy free-falling into the canyon, are stunning.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962). Gregory Peck plays lawyer Atticus Finch in this moving adaptation of Harper Lee's novel. Finch courageously defies the unwritten code of race relations in the deep South by accepting the case of a black man accused of raping a white woman. His children observe and absorb lessons about justice. Youngsters Mary Badham and Philip Alford are compelling as Finch's children, Scout and Jem; John Megna is the pipsqueak, Dill, from next door. This film brought surprise Oscars for Peck (best actor) and Horton Foote (best screenplay). And yes, that is Robert Duvall debuting as reclusive neighbor Boo Radley. The music, by Leonard Bernstein, is sensitive and strongly evocative of time and place. This is a great movie for anyone 10 years old and older.

Yellow Submarine (1968). For a film that was so trendy in its day, the charm of this innovative full-length cartoon has stood up remarkably well. For one thing, the Beatles' music hasn't lost an ounce of appeal over the years, and for another, the animation is a brilliant distillation of the 1960s pop kitsch, from the famous "LOVE" logo, to the stylized representations of John, Paul, Ringo and George. Your kids may not get it all the first time through, but the music will hold their interest.

Bill Van Dyk lives in Chatham, Ont.



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SUBSCRIBERS

This notice applies to those subscribers who recently received renewal notices from our office. Your cooperation to correct a mistake will save us money! Unfortunately, due to a printing error, the March and April batches of our "it's time to renew" business reply envelopes show the wrong postal code.

The postal code shown on these envelopes — L2W 1A1 — is OK for normal mail, but it is NOT correct on our postage-paid business reply envelopes. That's Canada Post policy.

Since Canada Post will penalize us when these wrongly-coded envelopes come back — about \$1.00 a piece! — please do us a favor. If you still have such an envelope in your house, kindly take a moment and immediately change the postal code from L2W 1A1 to L2W 9Z9. Thank you very much!

N.B.: 1) Again, the L2W 9Z9 code applies only to CC's business reply envelopes.
2) You can save us even more money by putting a 43 cent stamp on the envelope.

SDJ

Jacoba Bos

Summer will soon be here and most of us are looking forward to a vacation. If you are among the growing number of people who will take to the great outdoors protected from the elements by a tent or other portable type shelter, this short list in alphabetical order may help in making your camping holiday a great experience.

AN AXE is on top of the list. Never leave on a camping trip without one. An axe will not only split wood for the campfire, it can also be used as a hammer to nail down tent pegs in unyielding ground.

ALUMINUM FOIL is a commodity you can scarcely camp without. A piece of foil can serve as a lid on a saucepan (very important if you like your soup bug-free). This wonderful stuff can also be used to brighten up your nightlife by putting a piece behind your lantern as a backdrop for the light. And you'll be grateful to have it around, or rather underneath you when you remember to put a sheet of foil on the seat of a rain-soaked picnic table before you sit down.

BATTERIES are also a camping necessity. Thanks to this wonderful invention you'll have light on your path to the washroom in the middle of the night, and because of the marvel of battery-operated radios you'll not only be able to listen to Blue Jays baseball games but to Bach or Beethoven, Anne Murray or Michael Jackson, depending on your taste of music. Listening to Hayden's masterpiece "The Creation" under clear blue skies, surrounded by rocks and trees can be an exhilarating experience. God's masterpiece, *his* Creation can be enjoyed in many different ways while camping.

BOOKS run a close second to the merit of batteries. Sheer enjoyment awaits you when

away from the TV set and the telephone you once more discover the magic of the printed word as it feeds your imagination, sharpens your senses and fuels your emotions. And the Bible read at mealtime around



PHOTO: MARIETTE SUK

a picnic table without the pressures of meetings, appointments and music lessons waiting to be attended, can become an enriching and blessed experience.

CAMPERS come in different shapes and sizes. Some fold up (or down). Some can be pulled by car and some fit on a pickup truck, much like a snail carrying its home on its back. A buying spree at a few garage sales will supply you with most furnishings, from pots and pans and dishes to broom and dustpan. Regardless of the make, shape or price of your camper, setting one up on a campsite is the ultimate test for any marriage.

For whether your camper is the folding type, pull type or tag-along type, getting it parked in the perfect spot where it's not too sunny, not too close to the neighbors, far enough away from the fireplace and on level ground requires the kind of patience most of us don't have — especially after a long hot drive with several youngsters in the back seat who can't wait to go swimming.

When you *do* get your camper stationed and properly jacked up or pegged down and it doesn't look exactly like the campsites you see pictured in magazines and catalogues,

relax. The perfect campsite is as much a myth as the perfect family is.

DOME TENTS are called that because they are shaped like domes. Some of these tents

require ingenuity and dexterity to assemble. If you lack those qualities



find a fellow camper with a dome tent on his site. Campers are, on the whole a helpful lot and in less time than it takes to say: "Nice day, eh?" you'll have an onion-shaped roof over your head.

EGGS are a camping staple. Breakfast without them just doesn't prepare you for a long day fishing, hiking and swimming. Teamed with bacon, and fried with leftover potatoes, eggs will supply you with enough energy to face the day. If you don't eat this first meal at the crack of dawn, and if you call it "brunch," you won't need to cook till supper-time!

FIREWOOD is a romantic necessity! If

you have money to burn, buy wood when you get to your destination. Lacking that, try the local lumber mill. You may actually get some useful boards and scrap wood for little money. If you have lots of space in your vehicle or camper, fill it up with firewood before you leave home. A campfire at day's end is essential and relaxing, even if the smoke hits you right in the eyes as smoke tends to, regardless of where you sit or which direction the wind blows.

GRASS. Isn't it wonderful that you don't have to cut it? Why are we so concerned about manicuring our lawns at home? When we see the beauty of lush growth in its natural state we realize that it is far superior to any human-made accomplishment.

HATS should come along on your trip; take several, for they tend to get lost or blown off. Wearing one, espe-



PHOTO: BILL RIZZO

cially with wide rim, will help prevent eye strain (and skin cancer) as well as keep your skin younger looking. If you ever wondered what sun and wind can do to your skin, take a look at the skin that's never exposed to these elements. A hat may also prevent a headache from ruining your day.

ICE. Before leaving home, fill several large empty bottles with water and freeze them. Placed in your cooler, this ice will last for several days. You can also take baked goods and cartons of juice in frozen form.

JUICE. You'll want lots, for thirst quenching. Or you may consider going back to pre-affluence customs and drink water. Or tea and coffee. It's not only cheaper, it may also be better for your family than fruit-flavored sweetened and colored packaged drinks.

KNIVES need to be good and sharp. You'll need them to peel potatoes and cut ropes for your clothesline; and if you are real lucky, for fish cleaning.

LINES to hang your wet towels and bathing suits on are very important. Stretched tight

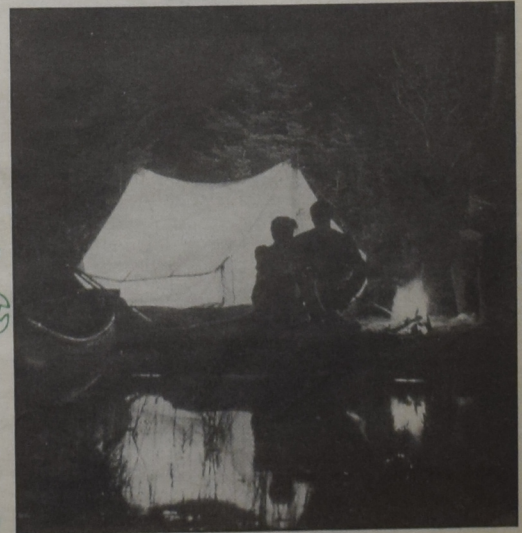


PHOTO: NORTHERN ONTARIO VACATION GUIDE

between trees they can also hold sleeping bags for airing or drying, since not all tents and campers are 100 per cent waterproof all the time.

MEAT AND MILK are best taken along in canned form. Milk in cartons which keeps for months without refrigeration is now available in supermarkets.

NEEDLES AND THREAD will fit in a small compartment in your camper. Add a few safety pins and a piece of elastic and you're ready for an emergency. The fishing person or people in your family will likely be the first to use it for mending their minnow nets.

OARS. If you are the proud owner of a boat, oars are a necessity. Boat motors have been known to fail at the most inopportune times. Without oars your boat will drift aimlessly. An extra person on board will also be helpful in handling the oars and in deciding which direction to take.

PROVINCIAL PARKS rank among the finest for camping pleasure. They are usually well supervised, clean and roomy, with opportunities for hiking, boating and swimming. Some parks have organized activities and programs; and if you are a senior citizen you pay a

date about what's happening to people and to our country — as well as the rest of the world. You'll learn about the private



PHOTO: WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA

lives of the rich and famous, and how much money the government is spending on welfare and how people are complaining about those facts, plus what kind of weather it is in Hong Kong and Amsterdam. Not a bad bargain for 25 cents. If you're real ambitious you can also take a bag full of

skunks. These cute but sharp-toothed critters like to eat what you eat and junk food is their favorite. They've been known to chew through Tupperware to get to the goodies, so maybe you should hide those precious containers with contents in camper or car.

STAMPS can be carried in your purse or wallet. Tuck in a note pad and a few envelopes and make a shut-in happy by sending a

description of nature's beauty around you.

STOVE. Another absolute necessity unless you prefer to cook the way missionaries in faraway lands do: hunched over an open fire. With the versatility of propane gas or camper fuel, you can have almost all the comforts of home, as far as



Algonquin Provincial Park

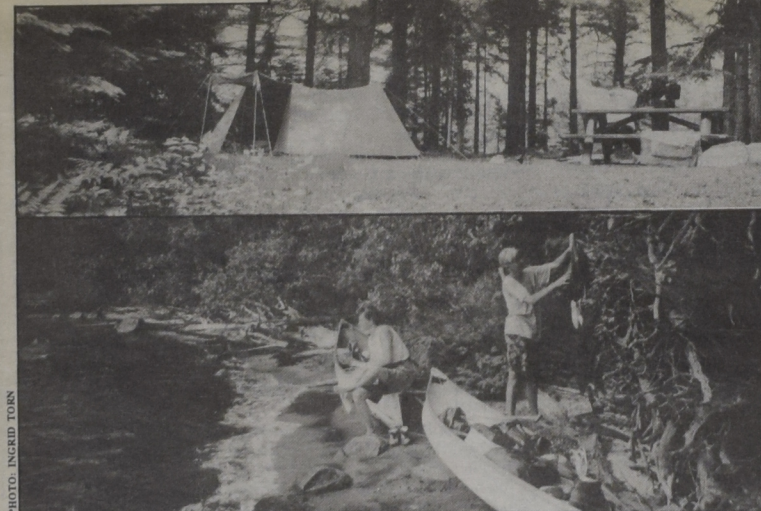


PHOTO: INGRID TORN

reduced rate for your campsite. This proves again that Canada is not only a great country to live in but also to camp in.

QUARTERS. Take lots of these for the newspaper machines you'll find near your camping area. The daily newspaper will keep you up to

quarters to the laundromat where you can sit and watch your socks and underwear get clean.

RACCOONS are animals you don't normally find around the house but you may run into them around your campsite. Just be grateful that they aren't

cooking goes. If you get the urge to cook up something good before bedtime, then get a pie iron. These longhanded instruments which resemble a waffle iron make delicious snacks if you fill them with two slices of bread, buttered on both sides. Spread pie filling or

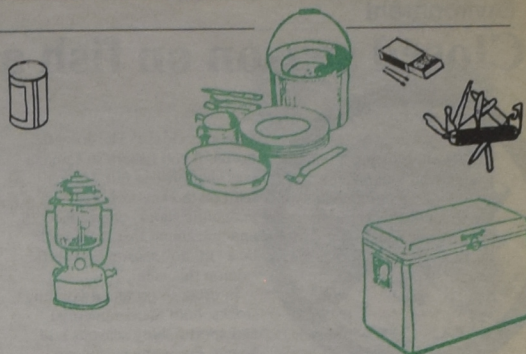


PHOTO: INGRID TORN

jam between slices. Baked over glowing coals in the pie iron, this concoction makes McDonald's hot fruit pies pale by comparison.

TAPE is a must. Bring several roles of Scotch, masking and the heavier duty tape. The latter is strong enough to fix leaks in camper roofs and air mattresses. Masking tape has 101 uses and is also indispensable for a preschooler's craft creation, while Scotch tape will hold your broken sunglasses together till you get home.

TOWELS. Don't forget them! And take the darkest towels you own. You have better things to do than laundry on a holiday. And don't forget to bring paper towels too. They have lots of uses before you start your campfire with them.

UNO GAME or any board or card game that kids and adults can play together can be a real lifesaver on a rainy day or any time when you want a change from camping activities.

VITAMINS. If you're in the habit of taking one-a-day to keep the doctor away, then bring some. An apple a day may have the same effect. And garlic will keep everyone away.

Even the mosquitos.

WATER. You'll see and feel lots of this commodity in its natural state. The piped-in water is what you'll be carrying from the communal pump to your campsite.

EXTRA PROTECTION FROM THE SUN is very important. Take along good sun-tan lotion with a sun-block of 15 or more.

YARN. An old proverb says that when the hands are busy the heart is happy. So if you knit, crochet or embroider, bring your yarn and needles. It may help you and those around you to relax. And if you're not into those crafts, you can always tell yarns around the campfire!

ZIPPERS tend to get stuck on anything that gets in their way. Zippers on sleeping bags and tent flaps are no exception, but with a drop of oil and a little patience this problem and many other camping problems can be solved.

Happy camping!

Jacoba Bos is a freelance writer who lives in Strathroy, Ont.

Environment

Closed season on fish and chips



The news couldn't be much more shocking. From both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts the word has come: the fishing

season is closed! The Atlantic northern cod fishery in Canada was shut off last fall. Now, hard on the heels of that economic shock, comes the U.S. announcement that there will be a "no-no" season on Pacific salmon this year.

In order to protect dwindling stocks, both the commercial and sport fishing seasons will be cut. For many west coast towns, community life is shaped in part around the opening of the salmon season. This is an important event in that it means primary employment for

some and summer jobs in the cannery for many others. A fortunate few young guys with connections get jobs on boats and can make enough money in one summer to pay for university and a car, with some left over. No one will be "lucky" this summer.

Reaching a limit

Perhaps there are just a couple of isolated events, aberrations in the steady supply of fish flowing to our tables. We will soon be back to normal. After all, over the last 40 years

the fish harvest has risen from 20 to 99.6 million tons. We couldn't possibly exhaust the endless ocean stocks — could we? The U.N. reports that "most traditional fish stocks have reached full exploitation" and at least four of 17 major marine fishing areas are overfished. The 100 million tons per year looks like a ceiling that we aren't likely to increase.

The Atlantic cod fishery closing has almost left us speechless. Consider the enormity of our actions. We have fished in this part of the ocean, one of the richest on the planet, for nearly 500 years. Only now has modern technology given us the power to hunt down and sweep up so many fish that the natural regenerative capacity of the species has been overwhelmed. Fifty thousand people have been thrown out of work and the federal and provincial governments are scrambling to meet the need.

Week after week the tragedy is played out as commentators repeat "what has been lost, more than the fishery, is a way of life." I was startled to hear these same words on an American report from the Oregon coast where a nearly identical number of people are now out of work.

Who has the answer?

How should we respond to

Environmental

Housekeeping

John Wood

these events? Anger, frustration and blame have surfaced and will continue. But I think that humility and repentance might suit us better. At the moment we don't need another study or another program; we need wisdom. The issue is pride and greed. We need look no farther than ourselves. The Greeks had a word for it: *hubris*. It means overweening pride of a special kind that falls back on a person with tragic consequences. *Hubris* implies a "shake your fist in the face of God" mentality.

In the end it is no easier for us to trust God than it was for the Israelites to trust him. We must restrain ourselves, give the land (and the sea) its rest. In the face of a bountiful creation we must resist the temptation to satisfy only ourselves. It has become almost impossible for moderns to acknowledge the Creator. We think we know all the answers, or at least we can figure out ways to get the answers. The fisheries dilemma doesn't need another technological fix. We need a moral fix, "...Forgive us our sins, as we forgive..."

John R. Wood teaches environmental science at The King's University College in Edmonton.

Tree planting can save energy — and money

Marian Van Til

LINCOLN, Neb. — "Planting a tree today may well mean dollars in your pocket tomorrow," says The National Arbor Day Foundation. That's because a few well-placed trees will provide shade that can reduce home air conditioning costs by 15 to 35 per cent or more.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seconds that. In fact, the EPA says that if enough shade trees were planted along streets in suburban areas and commercial districts the "heat island" effect of cities could be significantly reduced.

Heat islands are "zones of the landscape that are dominated by buildings and pavement and commonly have air temperatures many degrees higher than areas such as parks, rural land or well-shaded neighborhoods." That temperature difference accounts for an estimated three to eight per cent of all urban electricity use. And heat islands are growing with the seemingly non-stop spread of cities and their shopping malls and strip malls.

In the southwestern U.S. one researcher showed via a computer model that if 500,000 trees were planted in a city in his area by 1999, the heat island effect could be lowered enough to provide a 25 per cent savings in cooling costs. Along with reduced pollution, the money saved by the year 2030 would be an impressive \$236 million U.S.



Shaded cities save energy and money.

PHOTO: ARBOR DAY

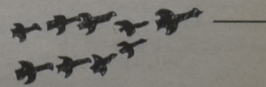
A new ecological problem: trees growing too fast

Marian Van Til

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — In a report in the latest *Science* magazine, Dr. Oliver L. Phillips of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis calls attention to "a new kind of ecological problem that hasn't really been assessed before." That problem is: trees and other vegetation in many of Earth's remaining rain forests are growing faster, dying sooner and being replaced at an unnaturally fast rate.

Phillips and a colleague, Alwyn H. Gentry, made that conclusion after having studied forest changes since the 1950s. They and other scientists specu-

late that "fast forest turnover" is caused by what they call the "fertilizer effect" of the rising concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere. And fast forest turnover could be making the carbon dioxide problem even more serious because quick-growing vegetation doesn't consume as much carbon dioxide as slow-growing vegetation does before reaching maturity. Peter Raven, also of the Missouri Botanical Garden and a relentless campaigner to save tropical forests, says Phillips and Gentry's study shows that even remote forests are being affected by industrialization.



Flying in a V-form

CC staff

A little article entitled "Four lessons from geese" in *Audubon Outlook*, March/April 1994, explains the benefits geese get from flying in formation.

"It has been learned," says the writer, "that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V-formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 per cent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own."

There are other wonderful things geese do, according to the article. Geese take turns heading the formation so that the lead goose does not get too tired. The leader is the only one not profiting from the V-formation.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep flying.

See Vacation Ads
on page 17...

APRIL 22, 1994

Advice/Music

The Old Lady's centennial

John Mc Gowan

This year marks the centennial of Massey Hall in Toronto. Often dubbed The Old Lady of Shuter Street, this famed example of Canadian architecture

sheds light upon a powerful servant of God.

Hart Massey, son of a successful farmer in Haldimand Township in Ontario, was born in 1823. By age seven he could

handle a team and make the weekly trip to the grist mill.

Four years later he had learned how to sell cattle and grain and deposit the proceeds at the bank. Like his father

Daniel he loved hard work and they were both fascinated by machinery.

Hart had also seen how his father refused to provide whiskey for the farm hands at harvest time. Although his firm stand created risk to the harvest, other workers were eventually hired. While still in his teens Hart began to organize religious services in his father's house.

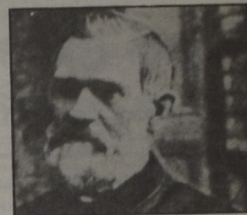


PHOTO: COURTESY JOHN MC GOWAN

Hart Massey

the Massey Music Hall as a memorial to his oldest son.

It opened on June 14, 1894, with a performance of Handel's Messiah as part of a three-day festival. For many years it was the only building in Canada designed for concert use. It became the home of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir in 1895.

The facility gave impetus to Toronto's growth as a major choral center, providing the city with a window on the world. International stars such as Paderewski, Caruso and Heifetz graced its stage.

In 1908 it was the site of the wedding of the native Canadian athlete, Tom Longboat.

A time to celebrate

The first major structural change to the building began in 1933. This reduced the seating capacity from 4,000 to 2,765. It also took on the popular name of Massey Hall.

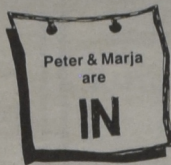
More refurbishing took place in 1982. This was the year Roy Thomson Hall opened. When the Toronto Symphony gave its final concert at Massey Hall one of its members, Johnny Cowell, composed "A Farewell to the Old Lady of Shuter Street."

The street will be closed off for two days in June to accommodate a street festival and open house. When the centennial all-Canadian musical extravaganza begins Elmer Iseler will conduct the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Toronto Symphony in music from the Messiah. Louis Applebaum has been commissioned to write a special fanfare for the occasion.

A parade of Canadian stars will follow including, Maureen Forrester, Lois Marshall, Sara McLachlan, Guido Basso, Jim Galloway and Rob McConnell.

Hart Massey would appreciate the link with his religious background in the playing of the Salvation Army Band and the singing of St. Michael's Boys Choir.

John Mc Gowan is a freelance writer who lives in Scarborough, Ont.



Dear P & M:

My question is about a phrase used in the Lord's Prayer that all of a sudden seems so odd to me. I'm referring to the petition, "... And lead us not into temptation." As if that is possible! God does not tempt us (see James 1:13). And he certainly does not purposely set out to lead us down the wrong path. The verb "lead" really bothers me. Can you give an explanation for this terminology?

Dear Lead Us Not Into Temptation:

Each of the commentaries which we checked mentions the concern raised in your letter. Others have also been bothered and confused by this translation.

The Greek word for "lead" in this petition is *eisenagekeis*.

Grammarians call this a permissive imperative. In other words, correctly understood it conveys the idea of God allowing us to experience something rather than actively bringing us into it. Paul has this kind of allowance in mind when he writes, "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear" (1 Cor. 10:13). A better translation of the original would sound like this: "Do not allow us to be led into temptation."

The Greek word for "temptation" is *peirasmon*. Kittel's *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, the most authoritative and comprehensive work on the Greek language of the New Testament, explains that the root of this word actually means test or trial. Of course, every test or trial comes with temptation. That's why this word was translated this way. But Kittel suggests that it makes better sense to apply this part of the Lord's Prayer to all affliction (vol. 6, p. 31).

A good example of the way tests are accompanied by temptation is Proverb 30:8,9. There the tests are poverty or riches and the temptations, respectively, are to steal and dishonor God or to be self-reliant and disown God.

Summing everything up, a better though more cumbersome English translation which catches all the nuances of the original might go something like this: "Do not allow us to be led into a test with its accompanying temptations." Unfortunately the chances of a revised translation making its way into a new version of the Bible are pretty remote. The Lord's Prayer is too well known in its present form. Just look how the confusion in another part of the prayer

over using the word "debts" (as the CRC does) or "trespasses" (as most other churches do).

This means that your question will be asked by many more generations for many more years.

Dear P & M:

Our school society is discussing a sex education program called Teen-Aid. Its main focus is abstinence. Another excellent movement in the sex ed field is the one that encourages kids to covenant to stay virginal until marriage. A nice T-shirt that I've seen says it well: "No ring, no schwing." But I thought there might be more to add to the discussion and I've enclosed my light-hearted contribution which I sent along to our local PTA meeting. You're free to use it.

Dear Pro-Romance:

With all the talk against in the area of teen sexuality, it's nice to read something positive. We like your lighthearted, wholesome approach and gladly print your "Ode to Spring, Love and Sighs." Here it is:

"I know a Christian fellow who frequently says, 'You Reformed people take things so seriously. Relax, man. Enjoy life!' So let us revel in spring, in 'falling in love' and in 'falling in like.'"

"Yeah, I know: romance is not the same as truth, covenanting faithfulness, love. But clean, blushing, shyly grinning, hand-holding walks are so wholesome! And if Christians don't show by their actions that they approve of the wholesome thing (Phil. 4:8), how will their words discourage the unwholesome?"

"But there I go again, being so solemn and serious, making a point. I better quit. Let's see now, it's time for my memory verse:

"See! The winter is past; the rains (snows) are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land" (Song of Songs 2:11-12).

Write to: P & M

c/o Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Herman de Jong, Bill Lidkea, Tom Zeyl, Irene Bom, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.

Feature

God chose this land and this people

A report from the Holy Land

Excerpts from a frank and graphic account of things to be seen in the Holy Land, by Joop Koopman, deputy editor of the *National Catholic Register* (April 4, 1993).

For believers, a visit to the Holy Land is not necessarily a grand event. It's more likely to be a humbling, even anticlimatic, introduction to the land of Jesus' birth. To those who've seen the splendors of the Vatican or the cathedrals of Europe — supreme expressions of a Christian culture — a country where Christians are but a tiny minority may come as a shock.

Christianity's birthplace is home to Muslim and Jew, as well. And while the holy sites enjoy pride of place, harmony doesn't come easy.

No checkpoints

Just four miles south of Jerusalem, Muslim-dominated Bethlehem — which only a decade ago was still a largely Christian enclave — embodies the Holy Land's shared patrimony. For one thing, a stop here is likely to be the only incursion into the West Bank for most tourists — although you'd hardly know it; there's no checkpoint or other obvious indication of entry into the hotly disputed territory.

The only giveaways are the blue local licence plates, vs. Israeli orange, and an extra police post here and there. In the threesome guarding the church in Bethlehem, casually chatting with Dutch pilgrims about soccer, a lanky Ethiopian-Jewish trooper stands out. He's yet another, more recent, claimant to the heritage of the Holy Land.

Tangible history

The Holy Sites — Bethlehem, Jerusalem's Holy Sepulcher and the Garden Tomb, or Tagbha on the shores of Lake Galilee, with the rock on which Christ laid the loaves and fishes before the miracle of multiplication — are startlingly concrete.

You can bend down, reach into the grotto and touch the silver star that marks the very spot where Jesus was born.

Or enter the burial tomb in

the Holy Sepulcher and feel the slab of cold rock. It fires the imagination, even if the experts aren't really sure of the exact locations of the sites. A hundred yards here or there doesn't seem to matter — the pilgrim has come close enough.

From Caesarea to Golan

But if there's a touch of the somber about the Holy Sepulcher and the Basilica of the Nativity, chances are the pilgrim will have begun the journey on the resort-style coastline of Tel Aviv, travelling northward toward Caesarea, the coastal capital Herod built and where Peter converted the Roman centurion. Its classical beauty surprises the traveller, who's free to pick up shards of Roman pottery carefully marked by archaeological teams and then discarded.

Further north, by way of Muhraka — the site where Elijah challenged the priests of Baal — is Haifa, built on hilltops and reminiscent of San Francisco. Most pilgrims then tend to take the highway eastward, inland, toward Galilee and Nazareth.

Verdant beauty

The landscape of flowing hills, culminating in the verdant beauty of the Sea of Galilee and its surroundings, tells the tale of the land, too.

The Golan Heights come into view above the lake. And it's clear why the Israelis are loath to return the territory to Syria. They're perched right over the country's heartland, with the former Syrian-held heights reaching down almost to the water.

The green hillsides surrounding the Sea of Galilee are magnificent. After the semitropical feel of the coast, a visitor here can imagine he's landed in Switzerland.

'Coming here touches you'

No visit to the Holy Land is



Garden of Gethsemane

complete without a visit to Yad Vashem, the national memorial of the Holocaust in Jerusalem. The quiet, somber elegance of the complex — with its understated exhibit of photos and documents tracing the destruction of Europe's Jews, the rows of trees honoring righteous gentiles, the new labyrinthine monument to the 5,000 destroyed communities and the salute to the Holocaust's 1.5 million child victims — is a

sobering reminder of the moral cost of indifference.

Even without spiritual fireworks, the personal benefits for the pilgrim are impossible to overstate. No description can take the place of actually making the journey. "Coming here touches you, somehow," confided an American Carmelite Sister who joined a community in Haifa, "you can't help it."

Whether it's surveying

PHOTO: THE CHRISTIAN HERALD PHOTOGUIDE

Jerusalem's golden hills or exploring its fascinating Old City, looking out from the Mount of Beatitudes on the Sea of Galilee or chancing upon Jericho — it somehow makes sense that God chose this land, and this people, to bring his Son into the world.

Reprinted from: *Christians and Israel*, Summer 1993.

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Classified Rates	Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries			
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If you wish a photo included, send us the original.</p> <p>d) <i>Christian Courier</i> will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.</p> <p>e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to six column inches. <i>Christian Courier</i> reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of \$13.50 per column inch (GST incl.).</p> <p>NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS</p> <p>We offer a one-year subscription for only \$20.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the <i>Christian Courier</i> and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request the wedding or birth announcement to enclose \$20.00 and the couple's correct address.</p> <p>Christian Courier 4-261 Martindale Rd. St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1 Phone: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313</p>	<p>Veenwouden, Fr. Lethbridge, Alta. The Neth. Canada 1944 May 4 1994</p> <p>"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise" (Ps. 145:3).</p> <p>With thankfulness to God we hope to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents</p> <p>TAEKE and TEATSKE DEJAGER (nee BEERDA)</p> <p>May God continue to bless them.</p> <p>Art DeJager — Lethbridge, Alta. Mient & Audrey DeJager — Lethbridge, Alta. Louis & Grace DeJager — Coaldale, Alta. John & Florence Kalsbeek — Ladner, B.C. Garry DeJager — New Westminster, B.C. Sybe & Griet de Vries — Dokkum, the Neth.</p> <p>Fred & Gerrie De Jager — Dokkum, the Neth.</p> <p>Jack & Henrietta Schenk — Mississauga, Ont.</p> <p>Bill & Hilda Korver — Coaldale, Alta. Louis & Willy Dykslag — Lethbridge, Alta. Jerry & Shirley DeJager — Coaldale, Alta. Bill & Sena DeJager — Abbotsford, B.C. Julius & Joanne DeJager — Fruitland, Ont.</p> <p>Dan & Alice Berry — Edmonton, Alta. Herman & Coby Kleissen — Coaldale, Alta.</p> <p>51 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Home address: Apt. 601, 32 St. South, Lethbridge, AB T1K 3A7</p>	 <p><i>Congratulations to Aart and Ali Jongejan (De Boer) on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary!</i></p>	<p>Sloodorp Clinton 1944 April 26 1994</p> <p>"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts" (Ps. 145:3,4).</p> <p>With praise and thanksgiving to God, we are happy to announce the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents</p> <p>AART and ALI JONGEJAN (DE BOER)</p> <p>Gary & Audrey Reitsma Sharon, Steven Rick & Ruth Jongejan Phil & Kim, Charleen Bill & Fran Jongejan Jeremy, Alison, Caroline, Julie, Rick, Rebecca</p> <p>Open house will be held on Saturday, May 28, 1994, from 2-4 p.m., at Clinton District Chr. School, Clinton, Ont.</p> <p>Best wishes only.</p>	<p>1939 April 29 1994</p> <p>ROELOF and HENDRIKA SOL (PRINS)</p> <p>will celebrate 55 years of marriage. We, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren praise God who has sustained and blessed them all these years.</p> <p>With love:</p> <p>Ralph & Jo-ann Sol — Woodstock and their families Marg & Ray Hettinga — Woodstock and their families Clarence & Wilma Sol — Kitchener and their families Cristine & Ben Klein-Geltink — Cambridge and their families</p> <p>Home address: 187 Springbank Ave. Woodstock, ON N4S 7R3</p>	 <p><i>Congratulations to Jacques and Ria Torn (nee Vandendool) on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary!</i></p>	<p>Eindhoven Whitby 1954 April 22 1994</p> <p>With praise and thanksgiving to God for His goodness and love, we celebrate with joy the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents</p> <p>JOHN and INGE VANDEPOL (nee STUURSTRAAT)</p> <p>With our love and very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness together.</p> <p>Jane & Stan Piersma — Oshawa, Ont. Jennifer, Cara, Stephanie Linda & Tom Zekveld — Whitby, Ont. David, Karin, Timothy Alan & Martha Vandepol — Courtice, Ont. Andrea Renee & Paul Reynolds — Courtice, Ont. Kristen</p> <p>We invite friends and family to an open house to be held at Hebron Chr. Ref. Church, 407 Crawford St., Whitby, Ont., on April 30, 1994, from 3 to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Home address: 270 Glenhill St., Whitby, ON L1N 7J8</p>	<p>1964 April 24 1994</p> <p>Holland Marsh, Ontario</p> <p>We would like to share our joy in the celebration of our parents' 30th anniversary</p> <p>ANDY & MARTHA DE JONG (nee BROUWER)</p> <p>Congratulations Mom and Dad! We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and keep you in His care. With love from your family:</p> <p>Wendy, Kelly & Theresa, Karen & Chris</p> <p>Home address: 209 Bernhardt Rd., R.R. #2, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9</p>

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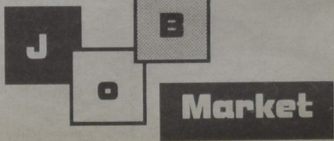
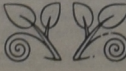
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Classifieds

Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Obituaries	Obituaries	Obituaries
		<p>With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother and grandmother MARTJE PIETERSMA CAZEMIER at the age of 85 years on Friday, April 1, 1994. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Henry & Anita — Toronto Albert & Margaret — Toronto Margaret & Harry — Grand Rapids Jeffrey & Noni — Lyn Harry & Eleanor — Iroquois Johanna — Quebec City and grandchildren Wilfred, Yvonne & Ian, Bryan, Kevin & Larisa, Rand & Mieke, Heather, Lisa, Erin & Janna, Gregory, Eric, Phillip & Julian. The funeral service and interment took place on Easter Monday, April 4, 1994.</p>	<p>Westendorp, Gld. Gorrie, Ont. Aug. 10, 1910 March 28, 1994 The Lord took home our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother JOHANNA GEERTRUIDA KLUMPENHOWER (née KLEIN-HESELINK) surrounded by her loving family at the age of 83. Predeceased by husband Johan Linus, May 1993, one sister in infancy and one son, Hendrik, in 1943. Lovingly remembered by her sister Anna and husband Hendrik Jansen in the Netherlands. Many in-laws. Her children: John & Jane — Samia, Ont. Ben & Evelyn — Brockville, Ont. Jerry & Judi — Gorrie, Ont. Linda & Elmer Meinema — Listowel, Ont. Ann & Ed Bell — Embro, Ont. Bill & Tena — Gorrie, Ont. Betty & John Van Donkersgoed — Gorrie, Ont. Theo & Jay — Gowanstown, Ont. Dick & Ruby — Calgary, Alta. Henry & Kathy — Red Deer, Alta. Also 48 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. "How precious to me are thy thoughts O God. How vast the sum of them" (Ps. 139:17). Funeral service was conducted by Rev. Dick Los on March 30, 1994, at Bethel Chr. Ref. Church, Listowel, Ont.</p>	<p>Oene, the Neth. Scarborough, Ont. March 4, 1934 March 18, 1994 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Ps. 91:1,2). On March 18, 1994, the Lord took unto Himself our dear husband, father, grandfather, brother, son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle GERRIT JAN (JOHN) OVERWEG His wife: Willemien (née Brouwer) — Scarborough Children: Hilda & Edwin Buis — Scarborough Anna & Ronald Elve — Bradford Teresa & Andrew Koomneef — Cour-tice Sharon & Neil Muldoon — Brockville Grandchildren: Amie Elve Laura, Allison, Gerrit John Koomneef Evan, Timmy Muldoon Sisters: Gardie Rorve — Willowdale Janny Eckelboom — the Neth. Brothers: Aart & Jo Overweg — the Neth. Jan & Aaltje Overweg — the Neth. Father-in-law: Gerit Brouwer — Brampton Sisters-in-law: Nan & Karl VanderVeen — Woodbridge Therese & Hank VandeKamp — North York Jane & Hans Verbeek — Timmins Brothers-in-law: Bern & Ruby Brouwer — Vancouver John & Jan Brouwer — Trenton Stuart Brouwer — Kingston 29 nieces and nephews and their families. Long time member of Grace Chr. Ref. Church, Scarborough, Ont.</p>
<p>1994 1994 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Ps. 23:6). On April 24, 1994, we hope to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents JOHN and ANNE TADEMA (née VALSTAR) We thank the Lord and praise Him for His goodness, which has shone through you, during trials and happy times. You have shown us His faithfulness. We pray for continued blessings in the years to come. With love from your children and grandchildren: Joyce & David McAllister — Sackville, Nova Scotia Melissa, Jessica Theo & Debbie Vonk — St. Thomas, Ont. Shawn, Christopher, Brandon Harold & Sylvia Tadema — Okanagan Falls, B.C. Scott, Jennifer, Brent, Alex Linda & Dave Pinkerton — Aylmer, Ont. Jake Home address: 46 Park Ave., St. Thomas, ON N5R 4W1</p>	<p>Terzool, Fr. Chilliwack, B.C. 1944 May 1 1994 "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Tim. 1:5). With thankfulness to God for his gracious care over them, we celebrate, the Lord willing, the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents LOUIS and HELEN YPMA (née DOTINGA) With love from your children: Bertha & Huibert DeBoon — Meeting Creek, Alta. Peter & Janie Ypma — Lacombe, Alta. Wilma & Marvin Sandstra — Red Deer, Alta. Willy & Shirley Ypma — Chilliwack, B.C. Jeannette & Jim Kornelius — Chilliwack, B.C. Teresa & John Tenbrinke — Chilliwack, B.C. Jeff & Judy Ypma — Chilliwack, B.C. Pake and Beppe to 23 grandchildren. Address: #304-46966 Yale Rd. E., Chilliwack, BC V2P 2S7</p>	<p>June 9, 1906 - March 23, 1994 The Lord in His love and mercy took to Himself our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother JANKE "JANE" KLOOSTRA (née MIENSA) at the age of 87. Predeceased by her husband Renze Kloostra in 1973. She will be lovingly remembered by her children and grandchildren as a very caring mother and Beppe. We thank the Lord for the Christian example she left us. Ellen & Klaas Scheepstra — Orillia, Ont. Ruby & Bill Liestra — Chatham, Ont. John & Anne Kloostra — Brighton, Ont. Sieger & Henny Kloostra — Codrington, Ont. Mike & Agatha Kloostra — Cobourg, Ont. Sylvia & Saka Greydanus — Bath, Ont. Trudy & Klaas Hoogsteen — Oshawa, Ont. Elizabeth & Don Hamden — Orono, Ont. Doris & Frank Vreugdenhil — Frankfort, Ont. Jane & Peter Dibbitts — Brighton, Ont. Jasper & Margaret Keizer — Trenton, Ont. Loved by 42 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by daughter Mary Keizer (in 1982) as well as two sons-in-law and three grandchildren. Funeral service was held in Brighton Chr. Ref. Church, on March 25, 1994, Rev. Henry Steenberg officiating. Romans 8:18-39. Correspondence address: Ellen Scheepstra, 395 Peter St. N., Orillia, ON L3V 5A6</p>	<p>Maassluis, Z.H. Strathroy, Ont. Aug. 26, 1906 April 4, 1994 "Blessed are those whose strength is in the Lord, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage" (Ps. 84:5). In his love and mercy, our faithful Father, called to Himself our loving mother, oma and great-oma JOHANNA VAN VLIET-DE GEUS at the age of 87. Beloved wife of the late Hendrik Van Vliet, April 10, 1987. Dear mother of: Bep & Keith Van Oosterom — Samia, Ont. Joanne, Rick & Janiece, Carolyn John & Linda Van Vliet — Lethbridge, Alta. Alice & Ken, Joyce & Anson, Henry & Belle, Debbie Cor & Bep Van Vliet — Strathroy, Ont. Jeanne & Mario, Gordon Henry & Alta Van Vliet — Kingsville, Ont. David & Beth, Tanya, Patricia Great grandchildren Shannon, Jordan Van Oosterom; Kristin, Kayla, Eric Folkerts; Justin, Nathan Sharpe. Survived by one brother and four sisters in the Netherlands. Funeral service was held on April 8, 1994, in East Chr. Ref. Church, in Strathroy, Ont., with Rev. J. Nutma officiating. Correspondence address: K. Van Oosterom, 1244 Isabella St., Sar-nia, ON N7S 1S6</p>	<p>Listowel, 28 maart 1994 Opgenomen in eeuwige heerlijkheid, zijn kind, ons getrouw medelid JOHANNA KLUMPENHOWER op de leeftijd van 84 jaar. De begrafenis heeft plaatsgevonden op 31 maart 1994, vanuit de Chr. Ref. Church, geleid door Ds. Dick Los. Oms medeleven gaat uit naar allen die haar zo lief hadden. De Vrouwenvereniging "Rondom Gods Woord," Listowel, Ont.</p>
<p>For Rent APARTMENT AVAILABLE — very close to the Western University and King's College campuses in London, Ont., from May 1 - Sept. 1, 1994. Two-bedroom \$400 monthly. Call (613) 838-3235</p>	<p>For Rent Victoria, B.C. Visiting the Commonwealth Games? House for rent from July 17 till Sept. 15. Adults only. Phone: (604) 744-4426</p>			
			<p>Op 9 maart 1994, is van ons heen-gaan in volle verzekering van een zalige toekomst met zijn Heer en Heiland, onze trouwe vriend G.H. STRONKS op de leeftijd van 87 jaar. Zijn nagedachtenis zal bij ons in dankbare herinnering blijven. De Senior Club T.O.G. Chr. Ref. Church, Iron Springs, Alta.</p>	

Classifieds

For Sale	Teachers	Summer Job Market	Summer Job Market	Real Estate
Pleasure or Profit Rubber stamp shop supplies for sale in South-Western Ontario. Owner retiring. Ideal for starting a small business. Great as a hobby, too! Included are blocks, handles, rubber, pads, drill, press, cabinets, logos, etc. Make a deal! If you are interested, write to: File #2617, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1	BURNS LAKE, B.C.: Burns Lake Chr. School is seeking three teachers to take up the challenge of helping our school develop its potential in its second year of operation. Our school has multi-grade classrooms for primary/elementary grades, plus Kindergarten. Please contact us at: Burns Lake Chr. School Box 574 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0	KINGSTON, Ont.: 18-year old student living in Kingston, Ont., wanting a summer job. Able and willing to train and work for any job. Call Terry Smedes at (613) 544-6385 after 6 p.m.	If you believe that honesty and integrity far outweigh political correctness, please read the following ad: RBC student looking for summer employment paying "Big Bucks". Willing to work hard for it. Tuition isn't cheap these days! Call Tim at: (616) 669-9859 before May 7 (905) 934-3547 after May 7	ADA REALTY LTD. 6012 Ada Blvd. Edmonton, AB T5W 4N9 (403) 471-1814 Sid Vandermeulen Contact us first when you think of moving to Edmonton and district. <i>Het vertrouwde adres.</i>
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Bed & Breakfast	W. Drost, Principal LCHS 295 Essex St. Sarnia, ON N7T 4S3 Phone: (519) 337-9122	HAMILTON, Ont.: 19-year-old college bound male seeking summer job. Available June 25. Willing to do indoor or outdoor work, ranging from coalminer to astronaut. Call Fred at (905) 383-0119 in Hamilton, Ont.		
Niagara Peninsula Spacious home in small village offers friendly hospitality while you are visiting the Niagara Peninsula. Private bathroom, hearty breakfast, all ages welcome. Double \$45, single \$30, children under 12 \$5. Wm. & Margaret Colyn, Box 53, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0, phone (905) 386-6258.	SARNIA, Ont.: Lambton Chr. High School solicits inquiries relating to a possible position in French for the 1994-95 school year. Please address your inquiry and resume to: W. Drost, Principal LCHS 295 Essex St. Sarnia, ON N7T 4S3 Phone: (519) 337-9122	GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.: Alison Seinen, student at Calvin College looking for summer employment. Have had experience working with children, but am willing to consider any possibilities. (616) 954-4929.	Summer 	Hire a student! This summer why not hire a student to help you ease your workload and get some extra things done? Beginning March 25, students will advertise their skills in our Summer Job Market section of the Classifieds. Please consider hiring one of them. <i>Some students may be hired when you call them. Please be patient. Sometimes they are hired before we can cancel their ad.</i>
Home Exchange Dutch couple wishes to exchange their home and car in the Netherlands for yours in the Ottawa area. Approx. two to four weeks, June 1994. Please write or phone: Margaret VanderKooi Box 252 Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0 Phone (905) 854-2135	WOODBRIDGE, Ont.: Toronto District Chr. High School invites qualified teachers to apply for a possible full-time position consisting of music and another subject area. Please send resumes or address inquiries to: William Barneveld, Principal 377 Woodbridge Avenue Woodbridge, ON L4L 2S8 Phone: (905) 851-1772	MISSISSAUGA, Ont.: Paula Wubbenhorst (17 years old). Experience includes cash register operation, keyboarding and desktop publishing. Seeking employment in any of these areas. Call (905) 826-2504.	Job Opportunities	
Teachers	Summer Job Market	ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: 16-year-old student eager to work during summer months. Experienced babysitter but will consider any type of work. Please call Renee Numan at (905) 937-6046.	shalom manor DIRECTOR OF CARE	Shalom Manor , a 132-bed Christian ethnic long-term care facility, is currently looking for someone to fill the position of Director of Care. The applicant for this position must have: • a current certificate of competence with the College of Nurses of Ontario • post R.N. Education in Gerontology, including diploma or certificate courses • a minimum of 3 years of relevant experience in a similar long-term care facility • a demonstrated skill in managing a nursing team, and • the ability to communicate in the Dutch language. A B.Sc.N. degree or LTCOM certificate would be desirable. The successful applicant will start in June 1994 . Send full resume, before April 25, 1994 , to: Administrator, Shalom Manor 12 Bartlett Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 4N5 Phone: (905) 945-9631, Fax (905) 945-1211
BOWMANVILLE, Ont.: Durham Chr. High School invites applicants for possible openings in history and French. Send application to: Durham Chr. High School Attn: Ren Siebenga, Principal R.R. #1, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2 Phone: (905) 623-3487	NIAGARA REGION, Ont.: NEED spring cleaning, lawn cutting, eavestrough cleaning, small painting jobs, or driveway sealing? Call MR. ODD JOBS (905) 984-8397 Owned/operated by university student. MR. ODD JOBS developed out of frustration with current job market. Thank you for your support.	WILLOWDALE, Ont.: Student graduating with Honours Economics degree, looking for summer employment in business or finance, but will work at anything. Lawn maintenance experience. Call (416) 221-3396.		
BOWMANVILLE, Ont.: Knox Chr. School anticipates an opening at the primary level for the 1994-95 school year. Please forward letter of application and resume to: Mr. W.M. Helmus, Principal 410 Scugog St., R.R. 1 Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2 Phone: (905) 623-5871 Fax: (905) 623-8877		CAMBRIDGE, Ont.: 17-year-old diesel technician student seeking employment on a dairy farm. Experienced in haying, worked on pig farm, and have worked in automotive and small engine fields. Own car. Adaptable, eager to work hard anywhere. Chris Van Dixhoorn at (519) 623-9924.		
		University student in biology and environmental studies (25 years old), seeking summer employment in Niagara region. Six years secretarial experience, WordPerfect, PlanPerfect, DataPerfect, spreadsheet, AccPac, multi-lingual. Please call 682-9068 (evenings)		

Classifieds

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Job Opportunities

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

Part-time regional reporter

Christian Courier is looking for a part-time regional reporter in southern British Columbia. The assignment involves writing two or three news stories a month about people or events that are significant and of interest to the Reformed/Christian community. This is an exciting assignment for someone who enjoys writing and keeping abreast of events and doesn't mind picking up a phone. Journalistic training and experience preferred. Please apply to Bert Witvoet, editor.



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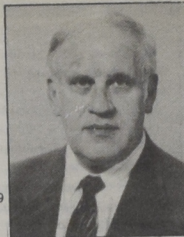


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Classifieds/Events

Miscellaneous	Events	Events	For Sale	Miscellaneous
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Summer Job Market

Attention: All Students

We know that many of you are thinking about summer jobs at this time. As in previous years, *Christian Courier* will carry the Summer Job Market section in the Classifieds. We urge you to check this section until **May 27**.

Send us your announcement, and include name, age, address, phone number, experience and type of work you are seeking. This service is free of charge. We have only one request: Please cancel the ad as soon as you have found employment so that you don't use up valuable space needlessly.

Good job hunting!

Stan de Jong
Manager

40th Anniversary Immanuel Christian School Aylmer, Ont.

Praise and Worship Service at

Aylmer Christian Reformed Church
South Street W., Aylmer, Ont.

for forty years of being in God's care

May 7, 1994

6:30-7:45 p.m. open house; 8:00 p.m. program

Everybody welcome.

* Songs * Special Music * Prayer * Solos *

* Group Praise * Readings *

Church News

Christian Reformed Church

Calls extended:

— to First, Barrie, Ont., Rev. Jack Vos of Covenant, St. Catharines, Ont.

Calls declined:

— to Cephas, Peterborough,

Ont., Rev. Ralph Koops of Cambridge, Ont.

— to Grace, Chatham, Ont., Rev. Jerry J. Hoytema of Guelph, Ont.

Miscellaneous

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FAX: (905) 648-2110

Events

Calendar

April 23 Organ concert by Andre Knevel, 7:30 p.m., Westmount CRC, **Strathroy**, Ont. Free admission and refreshments. Sponsored by Strathroy Plymouth/Chrysler.

April 23 "Festival of Praise," featuring 7 Ontario male choruses, Wim van Suydam (organ) and Henk-Jan & Herman Drost (trumpets), at 7:30 p.m., Yorkminster Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., **Toronto**, Ont. Admission: \$10 p.p., \$7.50 seniors/students.

April 23 Christian Rainbows — sponsored meeting for the family and friends of the long-term mentally ill. Speaker: Dr. Grant Mullen on "Can a Christian be depressed or hyperactive?" From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ebenezer Can. Ref. Church, Dynes Rd., **Burlington**, Ont. Info: (905) 639-1075 or (519) 631-0307.

April 23-24 The "Georgetown Choral Society," soloists and orchestra, directed by Mr. A. Dale Wood, will perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem" and other choral works. **April 23:** 8 p.m., St. Paul's United Church, **Brampton**, Ont.; **April 24:** 8 p.m., Holy Cross RC Church, **Georgetown**, Ont. Tickets: (905) 459-3913 or at the door.

April 25-26 The "Georgetown Choral Society," soloists and orchestra, directed by Mr. A. Dale Wood, will perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem" and other choral works. **April 25:** 8 p.m., St. Paul's United Church, **Brampton**, Ont.; **April 26:** 8 p.m., Holy Cross RC Church, **Georgetown**, Ont. Tickets: (905) 459-3913 or at the door.

April 27 Spring concert by Leendert Kooij's OCMA, with Andre Knevel, organist. Benefit concert for "Homestead." At 8 p.m., Melrose United Church (Homewood & Locke), **Hamilton**, Ont. Tickets: (905) 389-3510.

April 28 "TDCH Alumni Association" holds its first meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Toronto District Chr. High School,

Woodbridge, Ont. All alumni and past/present staff are invited! Info: (416) 741-2273 or (905) 851-1772.

April 28-30 "Street Level," a national conference for Christian street workers. Contact Victoria Drysdale, Yonge St. Mission, 270 Gerrard St. E., **Toronto**, ON M5A 2G4. Phone: (416) 929-9614.

April 29 Ontario Chr. High School (OACSS) Festival with Paul Dueck as mass conductor. At 8 p.m., Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. Tickets: \$8, \$5 students/seniors at the door or from the local school.

April 29 Spring concert by the Strathroy mixed choir "Rejoice in the Lord," directed by Jack Dykstra, at 7:30 p.m., Westmount CRC, **Strathroy**, Ont. Special guest: pianist Joseph VanBeek. Free will offering.

April 30 The King's University College 8th graduation convocation, 2 p.m., West End CRC, **Edmonton**, Alta. Guest speaker: Dr. Brian Stiller, Exec. Dir. of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

May 5 25th Anniversary of the North Edmonton Chr. School, **Edmonton**, Alta. Anniversary program on May 5. Pig Roast & reunion on June 3.

May 7 40th Anniversary of the Immanuel Chr. School, **Aylmer**, Ont. Open house 6:30-7:45 p.m. Program at 8 p.m.

May 18 Mini convention celebrating 40th anniversary of the Bowmanville-Quinte-Ottawa region of the Can. Fed. of Chr. Ref. Women, at 9:15 a.m., Days Inn, **Kingston**, Ont. Speakers: Dr. Willis Van Groningen and Rev. Devona Wiederick. Tickets \$16. Order by May 1 from S. Tadema (613) 384-3431.

Comment

Since I am on the other side of the Atlantic pond and considerably out of the loop of current events I will dip into my notebook for this press review and record some of my findings. The *Edmonton Journal* reported that Premier Klein has trouble sleeping. No wonder! I bet he counts dollars instead of sheep.

The Greek philosopher Socrates taught his students: "Know thyself." The former mayor of St. John's has really taken that lesson to heart. In an interview with the *Evening Telegram*, the present St. John's city councillor, commenting on the media's perception of her while she was mayor, said, "I think they thought I was a bit of a weirdo. I think they might have been right." Let's hear it for honesty.

And this is from Charlottetown's *The Guardian*: "The Hon. Eugene Cullen was P.E.I. Minister of Agriculture during the 1950s. At one occasion he agreed to speak about the role of a Christian in politics. During the question period that followed his speech he was asked how he could, as a Christian, justify some of the things he would have to do as a politician. He quietly replied: 'I have never been ashamed of anything I have ever done as a politician. But I have often been ashamed of some of the things I have been asked to do by electors.'"

Anyone in one of those down-in-the-dumps moods can always turn to the *Jamaican Weekly Gleaner*, where a certain Mrs. Tula announces that she solves all problems through roots and herbs. She also returns loved ones and guarantees results in three days.

From the *Karachi Dawn* comes the disturbing news that beggars in Karachi's business establishments have upped the price of their retreat from 10 paisa to one rupee. Inflation all over the world!

The *New Zealand Herald* carried some interesting items. A tourist in Auckland waved at people who were taking his picture. Unfortunately he forgot that he was standing under the swirling rotors of a helicopter. Surgeons in the

World news

Carl D. Tuyl

city hospital had a finger-stitching session.

That same paper also reports that a handful of Japanese monks who claim they were unfairly sacked from their temple have formed a union to fight for their rights. There are Protestants and burdened people in every denomination. But I read of at least one partially satisfied believer in this personal ad: "Thanks again, St. Jude for prayers answered. P.S. I also need some money. Soon." I classify those and other similar prayers as "religious panhandling."

Now to China and the *China Daily*: ants have appeared on many sophisticated restaurant menus and ant-based tonics are now very popular in China. According to Kou Baoskan, a professor at the Beijing Medical University, more than a dozen varieties of ants have medical and nutritional value. How about a sprinkle of ants on your morning cornflakes?

This from *The Nation* in Islamabad: A British journalist who secretly filmed life in Indonesian-occupied East Timor last December found a land ravaged by systematic massacres said to have claimed a third of the population — 200,000 since 1975.

In some places they still like the Canadian dollar; in Pakistan the loonie traded for 23.48 rupees and the Dutch guilder was worth 16.29 in Pakistan currency.

Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will visit the U.S. in June. Foreign Affairs officials are taking lessons in bowing. The cash-strapped Pentagon is weighing a plan to raise billions of dollars through the cut-price sale of used front-line military equipment to allies. The garage sale would include tanks, missiles and F-16 fighters, the type of plane that shot down four Serbian bombers in February.

The swallows returned to San Juan Capistrano

Mission in California on March 19 as they have done every March 19 in the 213-year history of that Spanish mission. The return of the swallows from their winter home in Argentina on exactly the same day every year puzzles scientists. Although I must say that I know someone who has

returned from Florida on the same day for the past 10 years and scientists have not yet even begun to think about that mysterious phenomenon!

Carl Tuyl is chaplaincy co-ordinator in Canada for the Christian Reformed Church and is a member of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care.



Details about the "Farm Parable" (Published in CC, Oct. 29, 1993) WHY THE WINNERS WON

Positive elements in the story

1. Old MacDonald was **honest** (he admitted he had a problem).
2. He took **action** (shared his problem with his neighbor who had much farm experience himself).
3. The neighbor **planted a seed** of a possible way MacDonald could find out for himself; some food for thought.
4. MacDonald **explored** for himself.
5. He took reasonable **safety precautions** to protect himself (a three-pronged pitchfork, and the most modern means of communication, a portable telephone).
6. He **discovered** the 'enemies' of the peace and sought the help from the proper authorities, the humane society.
7. They sedated the cougar and **bound up its wounds** and brought both animals to their respective places, where they belonged, since they too have a right to live!
8. **Peace and rest returned** among the cows and the milk production surpassed the previous peaks (might there have been some other intruders all along?).
9. MacDonald returned to his neighbor to **express his heartfelt thanks** and confirmed it with a warm hug.
10. It was the neighbor who had 'led' MacDonald on to the road to **discover for himself**, or self-discovery.

Negative elements omitted

1. He did **not hide** his problem and withdraw into self-pity.
2. He did **not go far away** first of all to some distant academically trained professional.
3. The neighbor did **not**: a. offer help to find out what MacDonald's problem was, or offer any help to resolve it b. **did not come up** with well-meant **theological answers**, such as "God sends good times and hard times; maybe he is trying your patience."
- c. **did not use some pop psychology**, such as, "Are you sure that you are not upset, as a result of an argument with your wife or mother-in-law, because cows are quite sensitive, you know, and maybe you upset them."
- d. did not ask, "When did your individual cows have their last **medical check-up**?"
- e. did **not suggest an angry neighbor** might have put some harmful chemicals in the (drinking) pond.
- f. the neighbor did not blame, judge, nor **insult MacDonald's intelligence** by offering advice or suggestions (the word 'suggestion' was not in the original story).
4. MacDonald did **not take the law into his own hands** and shoot the intruders.
5. MacDonald did **not forget** to thank his neighbor.

General implications and morals of the story

1. One rotten apple can destroy a whole bushel.
2. One deranged person can terrorize a whole city.
3. A few fanatics can start a large revolution.
4. One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
5. A stitch in time saves nine.
6. **Better turn half way** than to get completely lost.
7. One sinner can destroy much good.
8. One caring person can be a blessing to many.
9. An informed person counts for two.
10. Good fences make good neighbors.
11. Healthy psychological boundaries, especially in the family and among relatives can prevent many murders.

P.S. One **realistic** element in the story: The farm was not level. **Neither is life a smooth glassy sea.**

For: Self-Discovery (S.I.P.)
Casey Vander Stelt

Elements discovered by the winners:

			Total
First prize:			
Floyd 4, 5, 6 and 8	1, 2 and 3a	1, 5 and 8	10
Second prize:			
Hilly Bollink 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9	3a	5 and 6	8
Third prize:			
Tom 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10	-	-	6

News

World labor leader defends aid to Eastern Europe's unions

Group with religious roots seeks link with Orthodox churches

Irene Bom

LONDON, Ont. — Supporters of Christian labor principles got a taste of faith-based union action in Europe at their recent convention.

Piet Nelissen, head of the Brussels-based World Confederation of Labor (WCL), toured several plants organized by the Christian Labour Association of Canada and addressed convention delegates before flying out to Washington, D.C., last week.

Nelissen has been linking up with emerging trade union groups in Central and Eastern Europe for the past two years. He told his audience about the competition for members between the WCL, formerly the World Confederation of Christian Trade Unions, and the more left-wing, secular International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in the rapidly-changing former east bloc countries.

Had to adapt

Before World War II the WCL claimed the most and the strongest unions of Western Europe. After the war communist forces moved west and "took away half of our members," according to Nelissen.

So the WCL moved the other way. It found the most success in Latin America and Asia, gaining itself in the 1960s a reputation as the World Confederation of the Poor. The interest of Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim workers in Asia and North Africa led to the dropping of the word "Christian" from its name — a change which Nelissen insists has not sidelined the confederation's founding principles.

Nelissen covered many topics during his speech and in a subsequent CC interview.

On the CLAC:

I came because there were doubts in some circles as to how established it was. But I can tell you that it is a very well-structured organization with big opportunities.

On Russia:

Russia is more complicated than its satellite countries. Communism was much more destructive there. It has no history of democracy — it just

moved from the czars to communism. And the Orthodox church there never had a social vision — it did not even organize relief activities.

We are just now beginning to work with Eastern Orthodox churches.

On the responsibility of the West:

Their weapons against communism were the reliance and insistence on the operation of universal human rights. If we now deny this universality, we not only betray those who believe in it in the Eastern bloc, but we also break trust with our own belief in human rights. We would completely lose our credibility.

The failure is on our side now. Western Europe is afraid of Eastern Europe right now, and is lacking in leadership.

On financial aid and development:

We should have learned to be patient and not expect instant improvements from our experience with the financial aid that has been poured into the so-called Third World countries. Enormous social development must be achieved, and this takes time as well as money. People in the eastern bloc countries are more aware of this than we are in the West.

On potential new members:

It would appear that the choice of policy is simply to co-operate only with unions that show democratic tendencies. But that would also be unwise, because we can hardly be expected to wait until new, stable democratic trade unions have developed, or until the post-communist ones have proceeded to a sufficient level of genuine democratic reform. We could well miss the boat completely that way.

On the ideology of the left:

The belief system of the left has completely caved in. If you mention the class struggle now in Belgium, you will be laughed at. Former leftists have completely swung around. They



PHOTO: COURTESY CLAC

From l. to r. Ed Grootenboer, Piet Nelissen and Harry Antonides

won't even agree with me when I suggest that unions have to show some measure of social responsibility — every-

thing is 'the market, the market.' They're more liberal than we ever were.

Union calls for open access to B.C. public projects

Ron Rupke

Delegates representing 25 locals of the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) in three Canadian provinces gathered in London, Ont., on April 9 for their union's 38th national convention.

National board members reported on a year of membership growth despite economic recession and funding cutbacks.

In his executive address to the convention CLAC director Ed Grootenboer rooted CLAC's uniqueness in its ideas about dignity and respect for workers, as well as the value of work, trust, and authority relationships. He said that these ideas have equipped the CLAC to challenge employers who deny workers the ability to be responsible in their work; to challenge a labor movement which enforces solidarity through compulsory union membership and monopolistic jurisdictional claims over

work; and to challenge governments which recognize no limits to state control and which recklessly spend public funds and thereby jeopardize our ability to care properly for each other.

Delegates from various trade locals in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario presented brief reports on their employment situations.

A delegate from the Construction and Allied Workers Union Local 68 in B.C. reported on tremendous membership growth, despite the opposition of AFL-affiliated trade unions. However, he also reported on a recent B.C. government initiative to create a government Crown corporation to do public works construction, and to appoint this corporation to voluntarily recognize the AFL construction trade unions as the exclusive representatives of this corporation's employees. Following this presentation, delegates passed a resolution calling on the government of B.C. to abandon its policy of restricted tendering of public construction projects.

Ron Rupke is a CLAC agent in Mississauga, Ont.

News Digest

Edited by Irene Bom

Vatican to allow altar girls

VATICAN — After years of pressure from liberal Roman Catholics, the Vatican has decided to allow women to act as altar servers, reports the *Globe and Mail*.

In a letter dated mid-March and signed by Cardinal Antonio Javierre Ortas, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the Vatican announced that all lay people, men and women, can help priests perform services at the altar.

A Vatican spokesperson said the change of policy is a reinterpretation of church law and thus a pastoral decision, not a doctrinal one.

The letter says that Pope John Paul II approved the change. It adds that bishops who object to the change are not bound by it. The policy may not mean much to many liberal North American churches, which have been using women during services for years.

AIDS symptoms found in those without HIV

SYDNEY, Australia — Symptoms of AIDS can occur in people who have no evidence of HIV infection, the virus usually blamed for causing it, Australian researchers have reported.

Researchers at the University of New South Wales said a survey of Australian doctors found seven people who seemed to have AIDS, but did not have the human immuno-deficiency virus. Only one patient had received multiple blood transfusions during 1982-83, researchers said.

The patients lacked blood cells that fight infection, one of the main indicators of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Most also had cryptococcosis, a fungal infection that affects mostly the lungs and is often associated with AIDS, reports the *London Free Press*.

Thinkbit

"We worship our work, work at our play, and play at our worship."

Gordon Dahl, Work, Play and Worship